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MIDEAST EDITION

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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

Portuguese and Canadian fighter jets participate in NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission over Lithuania on Thursday.

MINDAUGAS KULBIS/AP

NATO chief compares Russian military aggression to Cold War as plane intercepts increase threefold

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A 'POWERFUL WAKE-UP CALL'

Obama's immigration order fraught with political hurdles

BY KAREN TUMULTY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The political consequences of President Barack Obama's new immigration plan will probably depend on whether Americans focus on the merits of the policy or on the president's

audacious means of achieving it. Democrats say that Obama's action, which would protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation, is necessary to keep the faith of Latinos, the nation's fastest-growing minority and a crucial voting bloc for their party in recent elections.

For Republicans, the move represents confirmation that the president is constantly overreaching, with contempt for the concerns of those who disagree with him. At the same time, GOP leaders worry that an overreaction on their own side — shutting down the government over the immi-

gration issue, for instance — could backfire and raise questions about their capacity to govern just as they are poised to take full control of Capitol Hill.

A chorus of Republicans on Wednesday accused Obama of behaving like a monarch — or, as Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., put it,

"emperor of the United States." They pointed to a litany of Obama's own past statements to make their case, noting that he often said there were limits to what he could do in the absence of a comprehensive new immigration law.

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MIDEAST

Taliban suicide attack in Kabul targets foreign contractor compound

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FACES

Ben Affleck opens up about family, politics

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

O-line paves road for Melvin Gordon at No. 14 Wisconsin

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Buffalo, NY, hit with more snow as storm again pounds region » Page 10

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I ran for my life. I ran right out the backdoor. My laptop and everything is still in there. It was shock. It was just instinct. You don't think about anything else; you just go."

— Allison Kope, a freshman from Cocoa Beach, Fla., who was in a Florida State University library in Tallahassee when a gunman opened fire early Thursday

See story on Page 9

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. US flying over Russia to take photos under Open Skies treaty
2. Sick Air Force officer back from Africa being monitored at Fort Bliss
3. Maj. Gen. Brown set to become AFCENT commander
4. A mysterious Russian space object could be the return of the 'satellite killer'
5. Advocates paint differing pictures of the state of religion in the military

COMING SOON

Video games

"Dragon Age: Inquisition"



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MIDEAST



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan security forces inspect the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday.

Taliban attack foreign compound

By CARLO MUNOZ
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Taliban suicide attack on a well-known, heavily fortified foreign contractor compound in Kabul on Wednesday capped a particularly violent several days in the Afghan capital.

A truck bomb was detonated Wednesday night outside the main gates of the Green Village compound, on the eastern outskirts of the city. After the explosion, three gunmen rushed the housing complex, attempting to enter the apartments of foreign workers, Kabul police spokesman Hashmatullah Stanakzai told Stars and Stripes.

The main headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force and the U.S. Embassy, both miles from the bomb site in central Kabul, were placed on security lockdown at the time of the attack.

During the ensuing gunfight, all three attackers were killed by security forces, Stanakzai said.

Two foreign workers and one Afghan security guard were wounded. Stanakzai declined to identify the nationalities of the injured workers.

By Thursday morning, armed guards from the Interior Ministry had secured the location and had begun clearing debris. The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the strike, saying the compound was targeted by the

group's fighters.

Home to a number of foreign workers associated with various international nongovernmental organizations and private contracting firms, the Green Village has been a frequent target for the Taliban. Wednesday night's bombing was the third time in as many years that the secure compound has been hit.

On Tuesday, a car bomb went off at the main gate of the Kabul compound of the Supreme Group logistics company and two gunmen attempted to fight their way inside. That compound is in the same eastern Kabul neighborhood as the Green Village.

The two attackers and two Afghan security guards were killed during that attack. Three civilians were injured.

The dual attacks were the latest in a recent surge of violence in the city, including the attempted assassination of Kabul Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Zahir Zahir by a Taliban suicide bomber on Nov. 9 and another attack last Sunday in which three people were killed when a suicide bomber hit the convoy of Afghan parliamentarian Shukria Barakzai in Kabul.

The attacks come as U.S. and NATO forces prepare to end combat operations in the country and hand over those missions to national security forces in December.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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US personnel urged to be cautious ahead of Bahrain election

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. officials are warning service-members stationed here about increased protest activity ahead of national elections.

Parliamentary and municipal elections are being held Saturday and Nov. 29 throughout the kingdom, which is home to the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet and about 8,200 U.S. personnel and family members.

The Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, Bahrain's main opposition group, has questioned the legitimacy of the elections and has promised to boycott them.

Bahrain has experienced sporadic unrest since February 2011 when authorities crushed the Shiite-dominated opposition movement, which took to the streets to demand greater political rights from the Sunni monarchy.

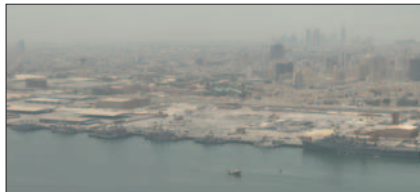
In an anti-terrorism force pro-

tection notice posted on the 5th Fleet's Facebook page, officials also warned to be careful about suspicious packages, tire fires and clashes with police during the pre-election and election days. The message urged U.S. personnel to stay away from polling station areas, which include several popular venues, such as malls, that Americans typically visit.

Bahrain's security officials are expected to boost security around the country during the elections. Security personnel have prepared for various scenarios and will monitor groups and individuals who may try to disrupt the elections, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday in a news release.

On Tuesday, a taxi was gutted in a Molotov cocktail attack in a village in the eastern part of the island. No injuries were reported.

news@stripes.com



MICHAEL SANDBERG/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. Navy ships sit in Bahrain in May 2013.

Two Navy supply ships collide in Gulf of Aden

MANAMA, Bahrain — Two U.S. Navy supply ships collided in the Gulf of Aden early Thursday, apparently suffering only minor damage, the U.S. Navy said in a press release. No one was injured.

The USNS Amelia Earhart and the USNS Walter S. Diehl were beginning a replenishment operation, when the collision occurred at 5:26 a.m. Both ships are continuing their assigned missions, the Navy said.

The Earhart is a dry cargo and ammunition supply ship, and the Diehl is a replenishment oiler. Both ships are tasked with resupplying U.S. Navy warships at sea that are operating in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

The 5th Fleet encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water around the Middle East region, including the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

The cause of the collision will be investigated.

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MILITARY

NATO chief reassures Baltic allies

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

Touring the Baltics for the first time as NATO's civilian chief, Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday that Russian military activity in the region was reminiscent of the Cold War, noting that the number of intercepts of Russian planes this year had dramatically increased.

Stoltenberg was in Estonia on the first leg of a tour through NATO countries most concerned about the spread of Russian aggression from Ukraine to the alliance's eastern reaches.

The U.S. deployed paratroopers to the Baltics in April, sending a company each to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. NATO and alliance leaders have made regular stops in the region to offer reassurance as Moscow's meddling in Ukraine and aggressive maneuvers on NATO's borders continue.

NATO aircraft have already intercepted Russian military planes in the Baltics more than 100 times this year, Stoltenberg said at a news conference at Estonia's Amari air base. That is a threefold increase over the previous year, he said.

In addition, Russian agents kidnapped an Estonian security officer and buzzed a Canadian warship taking part in a NATO military exercise in the Black Sea in September, causing alarm in the alliance and the region.



Courtesy of NATO

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg points as he and Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Roivas meet troops conducting the Baltic Air Police Mission at Amari air base, Estonia, on Thursday.

"It is a pattern which we haven't seen for many years, and it's a pattern which reminds us of the way they conducted these kinds of military air activities back in the time of the Cold War," Stoltenberg said.

"I would say [Russia's] military posture right on the alliance borders has been a very powerful wake-up call for us all," said Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Roivas, who met with Stoltenberg on Thursday.

Stoltenberg, who took over as NATO secretary-general Oct. 1, said his top priority is implementing the action plan alliance members agreed to at a summit in September.

The plan includes building a quick-reaction force capable of deploying within days.

Stoltenberg declined to take a position on France's sale of amphibious assault ships to Russia — a deal that was postponed after the downing in July of a civilian

airliner over an area held by pro-Russia rebels in eastern Ukraine.

A group of U.S. lawmakers last month urged Stoltenberg to buy the ships to prevent an alliance member from bolstering Russia's military capabilities.

"NATO doesn't possess, NATO doesn't sell military equipment," Stoltenberg said. "That's something the nations are doing or not doing."

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from
stripes.com

Accommodation and boundaries

What is proselytizing, and what is sharing? Does the context or setting matter? Does rank? Congress heard from several viewpoints Wednesday as it seeks to address Defense Department policies governing religious expression in the military.

Readers respond:

Religion in the military should be "as an individual," don't bring it to work with you.

— parkersd61

Does that apply to other personal preferences that make up a person's definition too? You want an army of robots who just shut up and color with no individual expression who are willing to ignore their constitutional rights?

— asonofSocrates

Problem is, there's no "shutting up" a higher ranking person intent on proselytizing. What's your solution?

— godlessveteran

It's not about constraining people from having a belief or from saying what they believe; it's about constraining them on when, how, and to whom to communicate those beliefs.

— jdjd

I had a BN commander try to force all the officers go to his men's prayer group. Keep your superstitions to yourself please.

— flyingsword

If one were to believe everything being said as gospel (pun intended), then that means everyone is being constantly bombarded with proselytizing. Funny thing is, that's not my experience. Guess I'm in a different military.

— Desk Pilot

A good senior leader does NOT force those lower in rank to listen to/participate in that leader's idea of religious information OR against religious beliefs! I don't care if it's an NCO or an O.

— tiredofpc

Join the fray at:
stripes.com/go/religion

Lawmakers hear all sides on religion in military

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Religious liberty advocates painted widely divergent pictures of the state of faith in the U.S. military for House legislators Wednesday, with some claiming rampant proselytizing and others complaining that believers are punished for expressing their faith.

The purpose of the hearing by the House Armed Services personnel subcommittee was to examine the effects of recent changes to federal law and Defense Department policies governing religious expression in the military.

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act directed the DOD to accommodate religious expression as much as possible without damaging the military, and exempted chaplains from performing religious duties that violate their faith. The DOD followed up in January with a policy that critics and supporters alike say loosens the reins on religious expression.

Among other effects, the policy means chaplains are no longer members of religious minorities who believe their faiths require beards, turbans and other types of traditional grooming or dress to receive official accommodation for not meeting uniform regulations.

Retired Navy chaplain Rabbi

Bruce Kahn told legislators that the new policy may also open a door for those inclined to reluctantly try to bring others to their faith.

"Where you have individuals who believe they're on a mission to bring others to their point of view ... then you have cracks in unit cohesion and you have real problems with maintaining readiness and being prepared to go to war," Kahn said.

Religious conservatives who spoke at the hearing said the new legislation and policy is promising, but it's not yet being implemented consistently. As a result, they said violations of religious freedom continue.

"Our concern now is how that guidance is going to be interpreted by those on the field, particularly on the wing level, the brigade level, and their JAGs and how they will interpret that," said Ron Crews, a retired Army chaplain and executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty.

Crews related an incident involving a Christian airman in the Ohio Air National Guard whose online article about his religion was quickly removed. Meanwhile, at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., an atheist airman was allowed to write about his beliefs on an Air Force website, Crews said.

"This double standard must stop," he said.

Mikey Weinstein, head of the

Military Religious Freedom Foundation and a vocal critic of what he terms the "Christian Taliban," said the new policy may embolden commanders who "wrongly believe that the First Amendment gives leaders an unrestricted right to proselytize or witness to their subordinates."

Unlike in civilian life, he said, "the subordinate must listen respectfully and deferentially or risk being punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for showing disrespect to a superior."

Courts have said the military may have valid reason to restrict some forms of religious expression, Weinstein said. He recommended severe discipline for commanders who attempt to proselytize their subordinates.

Michael Berry, senior council and director of Military Affairs for the Liberty Institute, said Christians face an "alarming increase in incidents of religious hostility within our military, both in frequency and severity."

He cited cases including an 18-year Air Force member relieved of his duties because, Berry said, he disagreed with his commander on religion. An Army commander (and 24-year service veteran) faced the possibility of career-ending discipline for speaking against what he saw as an unjust religion policy, he said.

The result, Berry said, is a "chilling effect on religious free-

dom and expression that harms our entire military."

Disagreements over the role and conduct of the chaplain corps — which among other things has seen fights in recent years over the propriety of sectarian prayers in mixed groups — also came up at the hearing.

Kahn said military chaplains have a unique duty to serve all, and the needs of servicemembers are more important than a desire for religious expression.

"As a Jewish chaplain, I don't pray in Hebrew or Aramaic when doing so defeats the point of my presence," he told legislators, an apparent comparison with some evangelical Christian chaplains who have argued they have the right to pray in Jesus' name in any setting. "I don't counsel by citing the Talmud when I know that people with me have no awareness of or affection for that source."

Rep. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., said constraining chaplains from saying what they believe is un-American.

"I do not know how we in America can think that we should have control over the conscience of a man of faith, whether they be Jewish, Muslim or Christian," he said. "That is not America, military or nonmilitary."

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MILITARY

Autism coverage improves but costs remain a worry

By TOM PHILPOTT

More than 26,000 military families with autistic children are getting better Tricare coverage of applied behavior analysis, or ABA, therapy and related services, which can improve a child's development and quality of life.

But a Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration that began a slow rollout in late October will still leave retirees and reserve component families facing heavy out-of-pocket costs to provide children with intensive ABA therapy that has become a standard of care, say advocates for families.

Defense Health Agency officials say the demonstration, which is to run through December 2018 and is open to any military child diagnosed with autism, will be a platform for evaluating ABA therapy, a series of behavior interventions, to learn which ones benefit autism patients the most.

Army Maj. Gen. Richard W. Thomas, chief medical officer and director of health care operations for DHA, said ABA therapy is an "emerging science." Just as the military has done for trauma care and other facets of health care delivery, Thomas sees the autism demonstration resulting in "new, innovative solutions to these patients" and discovery of best practices that are safe and effective.

He called the improved autism coverage a "very robust and generous benefit." We can't find anything comparable to it on the outside. "We have the most broad-based, generous benefit for patients with these diagnoses."

A key feature of the demonstration removes an annual cap of \$36,000 on Tricare family coverage of ABA therapy costs. That will allow more children to receive comprehensive treatment levels, typically 25 to 40 hours of therapy per week. The old cap limited treatments to 12 hours per week.

"Families will finally have coverage of prescribed level of care. This is a very important development," said Karen Driscoll, associate director for military relations at Autism Speaks, the nation's largest funder of autism research and advocacy. Driscoll is married to a retired Marine and their oldest son has autism.

ABA therapy uses environmental modifications to produce socially significant changes in behavior of autistic children. It is endorsed by the U.S. Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics and is "the standard of care in the treatment of autism today," Driscoll said.

For the demonstration, DHA combined three autism treatment programs into one, ending separate programs for active-duty families, non-active-duty families and an interim plan under court order that required Tricare to offer ABA therapy as part of its basic benefit. Good riddance to

MILITARY UPDATE

an "administrative nightmare," said one DHA official.

Three different programs delivering the same service in three different ways "was confusing to beneficiaries seeking care, but also to providers, to referring physicians and [Tricare support] contractors," Driscoll said. "So this is a big step to provide a uniform benefit for all those affected by autism."

The program also removes a minimum age limit of 18 months to receive ABA therapy, as suggested by family advocates during a roundtable discussion hosted by DHA. The new program also improves timely access to services by simplifying diagnostic requirements for enrollment.

"I remain concerned about cost barriers that can block access to care for many autistic children," said Driscoll, particularly for non-active-duty families.

While active-duty families are assessed a flat monthly fee that varies by rank under a tiered-services model for ABA therapy, retirees and reserve component personnel face a 10 percent copayment on ABA costs. That means \$7300 per year out of pocket for a 25-hour-per-week program and \$11,700 per year for a 40-hour-per-week treatment plan, none of which accrues to the family catastrophic cap.

Copayments associated with other outpatient treatment services do accrue against Tricare caps that limit annual out-of-pocket medical costs to \$1,000 for users of Tricare Reserve Select or \$3,000 for retirees using Tricare.

Because most ABA costs under the demonstration do not accrue to the family catastrophic cap, the cost share structure "may prevent many non-active-duty family members from accessing recommended levels of care," Driscoll said.

She can't guess why autism outpatient services "are treated so differently."

When DHA released more details on the autism care demonstration in September, it sparked outrage among parents for another reason: a proposed cut in payment rate for board-certified behavior analysts performing one-on-one ABA therapy. DHA wanted to cut the rate from \$125 per hour to \$68 for providing day-to-day therapy. The higher rate would be paid only when assessing a patient's need or drawing up a treatment plan. Otherwise, rates would fall 46 percent.

Thomas said Tricare periodically must review and adjust reimbursement rates and did so here. "What we found is Tricare pay-

ing well in excess of any others that were doing similar type work on the outside," he said.

The proposed rate change appears to have been based in part on a recent survey of Medicaid rates for ABA therapy in 14 states, which found board-certified behavior analysts receiving payments that ranged from \$35 to \$125 per hour.

But DHA didn't anticipate the reaction from families. Many said they feared board-certified behavior analysts would drop Tricare patients and scuttle their children's therapy. Driscoll predicted it indeed would affect "thousands of kids."

DHA has shelved the rate change until next April, giving it time to consider a more thorough review of ABA therapy payment rates being conducted by the think tank RAND Corp.

The demonstration has had some startup "kinks," Driscoll said, but senior leadership has been working family advocates and other "stakeholders" to address a variety of concerns. More information on the demonstration can be found online at: www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Autism-Care-Demonstration.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdates@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

By TOM ROEDER

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

Fort Carson soldier charged in fatal shooting of comrade

Air Base.

At the time, the post said Perkins died at a Jordanian military base and the circumstances were "under investigation."

Page, who joined the Army in 2012, has been locked up since July 18 in the case, the charge sheet shows.

Page faces several charges related to the killing, including murder and manslaughter. The breadth of charges is not unusual for military trials, where several charges can be brought to an evidence hearing with just the substantiated counts going forward to trial.

In addition to charges directly related to the killing, Page also is charged with dereliction of duty alleging he "willfully failed to safely handle his M-4 rifle."

Like a civilian grand jury proceeding, the rescheduled hearing will see prosecutors and defense lawyers vet evidence in the case before an investigating officer.

Once the evidence is aired, the investigating officer writes up recommendations on how the case should proceed.

If Page proceeds to trial, he could face the most serious charge in military justice.

In military law, premeditated killing comes with a mandatory life sentence, and military prosecutors can seek the death penalty in some cases.



Perkins

A Fort Carson, Colo., soldier has been charged in the fatal shooting of a comrade in Jordan in May, the post announced Tuesday.

An evidence hearing to determine whether Spc. Jeffery T. Page will be court-martialed in the death of Spc. Adrian M. Perkins, 19, of Pine Valley, Calif., was scheduled Wednesday but has been postponed to an undetermined date.

The two soldiers were deployed to Jordan as trainers with the post's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The Army had been tight-lipped on Perkins' death, and the announcement Tuesday was the first public acknowledgment that he may have been slain.

The Pentagon attributed the death in Amman as "a non-combat-related injury."

According to court papers obtained by The Gazette, prosecutors allege that Page shot Perkins with an M-4 rifle while the two were serving at Muwaffaq Salti

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PACIFIC

Japan opens door to shifting some Ospreys

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese officials appear to be laying the groundwork for shifting some Marine Corps Ospreys to the mainland from Okinawa, where some residents have grumbled over their deployment.

At a news conference Monday, Saga Gov. Yasuhiro Furukawa said he was willing to accept Japan Ground Self-Defense Force tilt-rotor aircraft at Saga airport on Kyushu island. The Japanese will begin procurement of the first of their scheduled 17 tilt-rotor aircraft — most likely Ospreys — beginning in fiscal year 2015.

The idea of moving a portion of the Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey to the mainland was first requested by Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima in December 2013 and became a campaign issue in the prefectural governor's race earlier this month.

Nakaima's campaign touted that he had negotiated billions of dollars in subsidies from the central government in exchange for his approval of moving Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flight operations to renovated facilities at Camp Schwab — and that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe gave assurances that he was trying to move half of Futenma's MV-22s off Okinawa. However, Nakaima lost Sunday's election to an anti-base candidate.

If shifting the Ospreys elsewhere were to happen, Saga would be a likely destination, should it get facilities built to accommodate the aircraft. Marine Osprey pilots and support staff most likely would be asked to train the JGSDF as well. Furukawa said use of the airport by the U.S. military is not being considered at this time, as he has no information on potential shared use, but rumors have swirled for some time.

The Japanese have courted Saga for deployment of tilt-rotor aircraft because their newly formed Amphibious Rapid Mobile Deployments Brigade — envisioned as a Japanese version of the Marine Corps — is stationed nearby at the JGSDF Ainoura base in Sasebo, a defense ministry spokesman said. Other major JASDF and JMSDF units are based in northern Kyushu.

"I acknowledge that [deployment of the JGSDF tilt-rotor aircraft] would not affect the operations of the airport today ... as well as in foreseeable future," Furukawa said. "I believe that a municipality should basically cooperate with the central government for its security policies."

Furukawa's position was conditional on acceptance by local residents and assurances of the aircraft's safety.

His comments were immediately applauded by Tokyo.

"As head of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense forces, I believe it is a big step forward," Defense Minister Akinori Eto said Tuesday. "It is our duty to make a continued effort to offer an in-depth explanation to gain the acceptance of the Saga prefectural

government and its people."

Ultimately, the decision whether to approve acceptance of tilt-rotor aircraft will be left up to his successor, Furukawa said, although he hopes his commitment will be respected. The third-term governor is expected to leave office soon to run for a seat in the Japan's parliament.

The Marine Corps said Thursday it remain committed to keeping their Ospreys on Okinawa.

In a statement, Marine officials said they would entertain routing the MV-22s through Saga only

for short-term engagements and that they intend to keep their two MV-22 squadrons at Futenma until a replacement facility is operational.

"There is no plan to station the MV-22B Osprey at Saga Airport," Marine Corps officials said in a statement to Stars and Stripes.

"We, the Marines, train and fight as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force," the statement read. "The aircraft which are currently based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa, including the MV-22B Osprey, will be the

same units based at the Futenma Replacement Facility, as they need to be very close to where the ground forces are based. ... The selected location off Henoko, as proposed by the GoJ, is the only viable solution."

Japan's Defense Ministry also released a graphic that seemed to throw water on moving the Marine MV-22 to Saga. The Osprey would not be able to reach all of Okinawa from Saga unless it were able to refuel, which may not be an option under certain contingencies.

Ospreys have become a rallying cry for Okinawan protesters over the years due to several crashes during its development. Despite sporadic incidents involving the aircraft in recent years, its pilots swear by its performance and reliability in combat and in disaster relief operations.

"The MV-22B is a U.S.-Japan alliance asset, enhancing the U.S. ability to assist in the defense of Japan as well as to respond rapidly to natural disasters," Marine officials said.

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PACIFIC

Annual report on China casts bleak image

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tensions between the U.S. and China have deepened during the rule of China's president, Xi Jinping, and the risk of an inadvertent military clash in the Asia-Pacific is growing, a congressional advisory panel said Thursday.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission criticizes "unsafe, unprofessional and aggressive" behavior by Chinese military personnel in the past year as the rising power has intimidated its neighbors and challenged decades of American pre-eminence in the Asia-Pacific.

The commission's annual report was drafted before President

Barack Obama visited Beijing last week and agreed with Xi to improve military cooperation to help reduce the risk of a confrontation.

Obama's trip also yielded a breakthrough deal with Xi on combating climate change, seen as a sign that despite their strategic rivalry and differences over human rights, the two governments can cooperate.

Since Xi came to power two years ago, the panel notes U.S.-China relations have been increasingly strained by China's territorial ambitions in the East and South China Sea, where it has disputes with nations including U.S. allies Japan and the Philippines.

"It is becoming clear that President Xi's government is willing



Xi

to cause a much higher level of tension in the bilateral relationship than past administrations have. Unfortunately, China's pursuit

of a more confrontational relationship with the United States likely will persist," the commission says.

Commission Chairman Dennis Shea said that conclusion still held, despite Obama's upbeat visit to Beijing.

Shea said the trip improved the atmospherics between the U.S. and China, but fundamental

problems remain.

He cited continuing Chinese state-sponsored cyberespionage; an increasingly hostile environment for U.S. business in China; and Chinese military modernization aimed at least in part at countering the U.S. military in the Pacific.

The commission advises Congress on the national security implications of the relationship between the two world powers. It doesn't set policy, and Beijing is typically very critical of its findings.

The report says the potential for "security miscalculation" in the region is rising, and that as China increases its military spending by double-digit percentages year after year, the balance of power is drifting away

from the U.S. and its allies.

It notes that by 2020, China could have as many as 351 submarines and missile-equipped surface ships in the Asia-Pacific.

The U.S. Navy, by comparison, plans to have 67 submarines and surface ships stationed or deployed to the region, the report says.

The commission cites several publicized incidents in which it says Chinese military aircraft and vessels have engaged in risky behavior with Japanese and U.S. forces, which it says could have resulted in the loss of life or a major political crisis.

It cited an incident in August when an armed Chinese J-11 fighter jet passed within 20 to 45 feet of a U.S. Navy P-8 surveillance plane.

Swift nominated for 4th star, to lead Pacific Fleet

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has nominated Navy Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift to become a four-star and be the next commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

Swift is currently serving as Navy Staff director within the Of-

fice of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

If confirmed by the Senate, he will have to deal with a number of challenges, including a rising Chinese navy and the U.S. military rebalance to Asia.

Swift has served as commander of U.S. 7th Fleet and deputy commander of Naval Forces within U.S. Central Command, according to his Navy biography.

He comes from an aviation background, having been commander of Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 97, commander of Carrier Air Wing 14 and commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine.

Swift has seen combat and participated in operations Praying Mantis, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Over the course of his career he has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense

Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Air Medal with Combat V.

He holds a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and a master's degree from the Naval War College. He received his commission in 1979 through the Aviation Reserve Officer Candidate Program.

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Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift

New leader for Navy's Pac Fleet air forces

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Rear Adm. Troy "Mike" Shoemaker has been promoted and named the next commander of the Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, according to a Defense Department statement.

Shoemaker will assume the rank of vice admiral and report to San Diego from his current post as commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet, based in Norfolk, Va., the statement said Wednesday. The appointment was announced by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Shoemaker is a career pilot with more than 4,400 flight hours, mostly in the A-7E Corsair and the F/A-18C Hornet, and 1,066 carrier-arrested landings, according to his Navy biography. He is the previous commander of the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and has been awarded the Air Medal with combat V in addition to numerous meritorious service medals and awards.

He replaces Vice Adm. David Buss, who has held the position since October 2012, according to his Navy biography.

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NATION



Rick Vasquez/Stars and Stripes

Rocking the House (and Senate)

The bust of the late Vaclav Havel, left, the playwright who rose to serve as the first democratically elected president of Czechoslovakia in 41 years, was dedicated Wednesday in Congress' Statuary Hall, alongside presidents and other historic figures such as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Noting Havel's love of American music, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, introduced ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons, center. The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame member played two brief selections, including altering their hit "I Thank You" with the words, "You didn't have to change it, but you did, but you did, but you did, and we thank you."

Ebola heightens need for orphan assistance

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Ebola epidemic has put adoptions in affected West African countries at a standstill for obvious reasons.

Tessa and Joel Sanborn understand. The arrival of their adopted son, Devine, 5, who is in an orphanage in Liberia, is indefinitely on hold as the state of emergency continues there.

"We love Liberia, and we want what's best for the country as a whole," said Tessa Sanborn, who lives with her husband and their six other children in Maple Valley, Wash., just outside Seattle.

But the waiting is still difficult, as it is for other parents in a similar predicament. And even as some families keep their commitment to adopt despite the Ebola threat, the number of children in West African orphanages who've lost parents is only increasing because of the deadly virus.

Some aid workers also say a shortage of food and supplies is making it difficult to care for those children, and that fear is hampering efforts to place those who've lost parents to Ebola, even within their home countries.

It is just the latest crisis in Liberia, a country that was attempting to overcome the ravages of war before Ebola hit, said Patricia Anglin, executive director and founder of Acres of Hope, a children's aid organization in Liberia that houses many orphans, including Devine.

"Long after Ebola is even eradicated, we will have the devastation and challenges left behind of these orphans who need to be cared for," Anglin said.

Anglin, who is American but is based in Liberia, is in the United States for a month trying to raise emergency funds for food and supplies and to keep her organization going.

Adoptions, while a relatively small part of the organization's services, help fund it, she said. With those on hold, she and her staff have stopped taking salaries and are focusing on relief efforts.

It's difficult because of the scale of the Ebola outbreak to calculate the number of children in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea who've lost one or both parents to the disease. The current estimate is about 7,000, according to Anglin and other aid workers.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Aide: President open to limits on war powers

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is open to limits on the duration of its military efforts in Iraq and Syria and on the potential use of ground forces in a new war authorization against the Islamic State, a top presidential adviser said Wednesday.

Tony Blinken, President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser, said discussions would continue with Congress on updating the legal basis for the U.S. intervention.

There has been no progress on an authorization in the two weeks since Obama vowed to coordinate with lawmakers on establishing a stronger legal basis for military action. That has prompted growing frustration among Republicans and Democrats with the White House.

Blinken, nominated by Obama to be Secretary of State John Kerry's deputy as the No. 2-ranked U.S. diplomat, was testifying Wednesday at a confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was asked by the chairman, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, of New Jersey, if a three-year limit on operations and a prohibition on a large-scale ground combat mission were reasonable.

Blinken said those conditions would be "appropriate" and could form a "good basis" for the law.

He then told Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the administration sees a "targeted, focused" law specifically designed for fighting the Islamic State as an important part of building "broad support" on an issue of war and peace. Corker will become the panel's chairman when Republicans take over the Senate majority in January.

The toughest bout of questioning came from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who asked Blinken if he was wrong two years ago when he said



Blinken

"what is beyond debate ... is that Iraq today is less violent, more democratic and more prosperous, and the United States more deeply engaged there than at any time in recent history."

Blinken said he stood behind his assessment of that time period.

After his party's drubbing in midterm elections, Obama said he'd work with Congress during the current lame-duck session on a new authorization for the U.S. intervention in Iraq and Syria. It reflected that even many supportive lawmakers reject the administration's legal justification based on a 2001 authorization to fight al-Qaida and another a year later to invade Iraq.



HADI MIZBAN, POOL/AP

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, right, shakes hands with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Baghdad on Thursday. Al-Abadi said Iraq and Turkey have agreed to cooperate in the face of the Islamic State threat.

Iraq, Turkey will cooperate against Islamic State threat

By HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister said Thursday that his country and neighboring Turkey have agreed on closer security and intelligence cooperation in the face of the threat posed by the Islamic State group.

"We have a key agreement to exchange information and have full security cooperation," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told a news conference after talks with his visiting Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoglu. "The Turkish prime minister also wants us to have military cooperation in the face of terrorism and Daesh and we welcome that," said al-Abadi, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State.

Davutoglu confirmed the two

sides' agreement on closer security cooperation.

"I can say that Daesh threatens both Iraq and Turkey, but we will cooperate and do everything we can to stand up to terrorism," he said.

About a third of Iraq, which shares a porous border with Turkey, is held by the Islamic State. Earlier this year, the group declared a caliphate on the large swaths of territory under its control in both Iraq and Syria.

Relations recently soured between Turkey and Iraq over what Baghdad sees as illegal oil exports through Turkey by its Kurdish self-ruled northern region. Al-Abadi said Thursday the two countries have reached an agreement on the issue but did not elaborate.

He said Davutoglu has made clear to him that Turkey was keen to have "transparent and clear" relations on the oil issue and that Baghdad would be informed of any Iraqi oil exports going through Turkish territory.

Baghdad moved to withhold the 17 percent share of the national budget normally earmarked for the Kurdish region — an estimated \$20 billion — after the Kurds independently shipped oil to Turkey in January.

Negotiations between Baghdad and the semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government yielded some progress last week after Baghdad agreed to release \$500 million in frozen budget payments. In return, the Kurds will provide 150,000 barrels of oil per day for Baghdad to sell.

Beheadings may lead to re-evaluation of ransoms policy

By ADAM TAYLOR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Last weekend's beheading of Abdul-Rahman Kassig, a U.S. aid worker previously known as Peter Kassig, marked the fifth killing of a foreigner to be filmed and released by the Islamic State. So far, the extremist Islamic group has killed three American citizens and two British citizens in this manner. There is one remaining Western hostage, an American woman.

The nationality of those killed is important. While these U.S. and British citizens were killed, those of other nationalities have been released by the Islamic State. The New York Times has reported that citizens from Italy, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Peru and Sweden are believed to have been freed after ransoms were paid. While most countries

agree, in theory, to not pay money to kidnappers, many covertly do.

The United States and Britain do not. The logic that drives that strategy is being called into question by the brutality of the Islamic State.

On Monday, Shane Harris, of the Daily Beast, reported that the White House may re-evaluate its policy on ransoms. In particular, the White House will review the opposition the U.S. government has shown to families paying ransoms to kidnappers. In the past, Washington has refused to facilitate those payments, and the families of both James Foley and Steven Sotloff, two American journalists killed by the Islamic State — claimed that they were threatened with prosecution by White House counterterrorism officials if they raised money and paid a ransom privately.

That seems to be an acknowledgment that the U.S. policy of paying ransoms is flawed, but it

brings up a worrying question: What would be better?

At its core, the U.S. logic on ransoms boils down to two key factors. First, the idea that paying ransoms gives kidnappers an incentive to kidnap and may compel them to target people of a certain nationality.

Then there's a second, more direct problem. The kidnappers are often extremist groups with violent

agendas in opposition to U.S. foreign policy aims. By giving them a substantial amount of money, you may be helping them to get closer to achieving those aims.

What other option is there for the U.S. government, other than paying or facilitating the payment of huge sums of money?

One option sounds simple: Rescue them. That is far easier said than done. The U.S. government

did try to rescue American hostages being held by the Islamic State in a daring secret raid earlier this year, but it failed.

U.S. officials could also attempt to work out some kind of prisoner exchange deal, like they did with the Taliban in exchange for the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. That method comes with its own risks and criticisms, and may not always be an option.

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NATION

Police shoot, kill gunman at Fla. university library

By GARY FINEOUT
AND BRENDAN FARRINGTON
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A gunman opened fire early Thursday at a Florida State University library, sending hundreds of students who had been up all night studying for exams scrambling for cover in the book aisles and barricading themselves in with desks. Three students were wounded before police killed the gunman in a shootout, authorities said.

Police and FSU officials called the shooting an "isolated inci-

dent," but have not released many details, including how far the suspected gunman made it into Strozier Library. FSU's compact campus is less than a mile from downtown Tallahassee and the state Capitol.

"This person just for whatever reason produced a handgun and then began shooting students in the library," FSU Police Chief David Perry said.

The attack started soon after midnight, when students inside the multistory library heard about half a dozen gunshots. Students began screaming that someone

was shooting at them and flipped over chairs in their race to take cover.

"I ran for my life," said Allison Kope, a freshman from Cocoa Beach, who was on the library's first floor. "I ran right out the backdoor. My laptop and everything is still in there. It was shock. It was just instinct. You don't think about anything else; you just go."

Other students hid in the book aisles and some barricaded themselves in rooms.

Sarah Evans, a senior from Miami, said she was inside the



MARK WALLHEISER/AP

Tallahassee police investigate the scene of a shooting outside Strozier Library on the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee, Fla., on Thursday.

library and heard a male student say he had been shot. When she looked at him, he was on the ground with blood spreading on his pants leg.

Two of the victims were taken to a local hospital. FSU officials said a third student was only grazed by a bullet and was treated at the scene.

Some in NSA warned of a backlash over surveillance effort

By KEN DILANIAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dissenters within the National Security Agency, led by a senior agency executive, warned in 2009 that the program to secretly collect American phone records wasn't providing enough intelligence to justify the backlash it would cause if revealed, current and former intelligence officials say.

The NSA took the concerns seriously, and many senior officials shared them. But after an internal debate that has not been previously reported, NSA leaders, White House officials and key lawmakers opted to continue the collection and storage of American calling records, a domestic surveillance program without parallel in the agency's recent history.

The warnings proved prophetic last year after the calling-records program was made public in the first and most significant leak by Edward Snowden, a former NSA systems administrator who cited the government's deception about the program as one of his chief motivations for turning over classified documents to journalists. Many Americans were shocked and dismayed to learn that an intelligence agency collects and stores all its land-line calling records.

In response, President Barack Obama is now trying to stop the NSA collection but to preserve the agency's ability to search the records in the hands of the telephone companies — an arrangement similar to the one the administration quietly rejected in 2009. His plan, drawing opposition from most Republicans, fell two votes short of advancing in the Senate on Tuesday.

A now-retired NSA senior executive, who was a longtime code-breaker who rose to top management, had just learned in 2009

about the top secret program that was created shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He said he argued to then-NSA Director Keith Alexander that storing the calling records of nearly every American fundamentally changed the character of the agency, which is supposed to eavesdrop on foreigners, not Americans.

Alexander politely disagreed, the former official told The Associated Press.

The former official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because he didn't have permission to discuss a classified matter, said he knows of no evidence the program was used for anything other than hunting for terrorism plots in the U.S. But he said he and others made the case that the collection of American records in bulk crossed a line that had been sacrosanct.

He said he also warned of a scandal if it should be disclosed that the NSA was storing records of private calls by Americans — to psychiatrists, lovers and suicide hotlines, among other contacts.

Alexander, who led the NSA from 2005 until he retired last year, did not dispute the former official's account, though he said he disagreed that the program was improper.

By 2009, several former officials said, concern about the "215 program," so-called for the authorizing provision of the USA Patriot Act, had grown inside NSA's Fort Meade, Md., headquarters to the point that the program's intelligence value was being questioned. That was partly true because, for technical and other reasons, the NSA was not capturing most mobile calling records, which were an increasing share of the domestic calling universe, the former officials said.

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NATION



Derek Gee, The Buffalo (N.Y.) News/AP

A man digs out his driveway Wednesday in Depew, N.Y. The Buffalo area found itself buried under nearly 6 feet of snow Wednesday, and a lake-effect snowstorm on Thursday was expected to dump an additional 2 feet of snow on the region.

Just keep digging: Round 2 in NY

Second lake-effects storm pounds region; weekend warm-up likely to bring flooding

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A new blast of lake-effect snow roared through western New York with thunder and lightning on Thursday, raising to nearly 6 feet the three-day total in parts of the Buffalo area.

But even as it strained roofs and stalled daily life, the snow wasn't the only worry. Forecasters warned a rapid weekend warm-up and rain could turn all that snow into floods.

"It's a force of nature, a massive force of nature," Deputy Erie County Commissioner Richard Tobe said during a Thursday morning briefing, where he announced an eighth storm-related death. "We're prepared, but the storm is gigantic and persistent."

Even for Buffalo, a place that typically shrugs at snow, this was a stunning snowfall — the kind of onslaught folks will be telling their grandchildren about.

Those living in the Buffalo area

were already buried under as much as 5½ feet of snow Tuesday and Wednesday, and they awoke to the threat of 1 to 3 feet more. The roving lake-effect band dropped several inches on the city of Buffalo and then pushed into towns to the south, National Weather Service meteorologist David Zaff said.

"When all is said and done, this snowstorm will break all sorts of records, and that's saying something in Buffalo," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said after touring the region Wednesday and talking to truckers who had been stranded more than 24 hours on the New York State Thruway.

The storm came in so fast and furious over Lake Erie early Tuesday it trapped more than 100 vehicles along a 132-mile stretch of the Thruway that remained closed Thursday.

Tom Wilson, of West Seneca, split a Salisbury steak frozen dinner with co-workers and tried his

best to get some rest when he was stuck 36 hours at his warehouse job.

"We tried to make popcorn with a two-by-four, two empty pop kets, some charcoal and a dust pan," he said. "It didn't work."

The storm was blamed for up to eight deaths in western New York, at least five of them from heart attacks. Erie County officials announced the latest death on Thursday, that of a man in his 60s who was stricken Wednesday while operating a snowblower.

Residents of a mobile home park in the suburb of West Seneca were being evacuated Thursday after their roofs began to collapse under the weight of heavy snow.

The NFL's Buffalo Bills offered \$10 an hour plus game tickets for people willing to help shovel out the stands in Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, in the snow belt southeast of the city.

Team spokesman Scott Berchtold said the team has an estimat-

ed 220,000 tons of snow to remove from the stadium before Sunday's game against the Jets — more than ever before.

Sunny skies returned to some hard-hit areas Wednesday, but workers were still trying to cart off the acres of snow. Lake-effect snow fell heavily on some northern New York areas east of Lake Ontario.

With an additional 2 feet possible Thursday, the one-week totals for the hardest hit areas will approach the average snowfall for an entire year: 93.6 inches, or close to 8 feet.

It won't stick around, though. With temperatures expected to rise above freezing Saturday and approach 60 by Monday, flooding is likely to produce the next challenge.

The highest snowfall total for the Buffalo area this time was 65 inches, recorded in Cheektowaga.

Morale issues at Secret Service

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The acting director of the Secret Service warned lawmakers Wednesday of "potentially dire consequences" from lowered morale and operational security at the agency. He vowed to do better.

Joseph Clancy offered the sobering assessment in testimony to the House Judiciary Committee, making his first appearance on Capitol Hill since his appointment last month to lead the embattled agency. The Secret Service has suffered a string of embarrassments, including a fence jumper who made it into the White House, which led to the resignation of its previous director.

Clancy acknowledged that the agency has fallen short of its goal of perfection. He said that being in the spotlight has had detrimental effects on employee morale and operational security, "both with potentially dire consequences."

He also offered a mea culpa over the Sept. 19 fence-jumping incident. An internal review last week detailed a string of failures that allowed a Texas Army veteran, Omar Gonzalez, to make it way all the way into the East Room.

"I found the findings devastating. What hits me hardest is the range of shortcomings that ultimately allowed Omar Gonzalez to enter the White House practically unencumbered," Clancy said.

Clancy said he's conducting a top-to-bottom assessment and is establishing new procedures, improving communications and considering other changes, including strengthening the White House fence.

An outside review of the agency also is underway.

Lawmakers told him there was no margin for error.

"The Secret Service cannot make mistakes," said Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas. "You're protecting the president and the president's family; there can't be mistakes."

Clancy also came under attack from lawmakers over wrong information the agency put out about the fence-jumping incident early on, including initial claims that Gonzalez was unarmed and was tackled immediately inside the White House. In fact he had a knife and made it far into the executive mansion.

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NATION

Immigration: Ex-official expects 'wide' anger, 'deep' benefits over action

FROM FRONT PAGE

While there are decades of precedent for executives — both Democratic and Republican — claiming leeway in choosing which immigration cases to pursue, none has applied "prosecutorial discretion" as broadly as Obama was expected to in a speech Thursday night.

Obama will argue that his policy is simply an acknowledgment of practical reality: that the government's limited resources should be devoted to dealing with the cases that pose the greatest public safety threat, and that Congress itself has failed to act.

A comprehensive immigration bill passed the Democratic-led Senate in June 2013, but the GOP-majority House has not moved on the issue.

In the absence of legislation, "the president is somebody who is willing to examine the law, review the law and use every element of that law to make progress for the American people," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Wednesday. "If that is something that Republicans are critical of, then that's... a criticism that the president wears with a badge of honor."

Politically, Obama has little choice: He had promised for months to undertake this kind of executive action, which will be an

expansion of his 2012 decision to protect from deportation hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the country illegally as children.

"He has boxed himself in completely," said William Galston, a Brookings Institution senior fellow who was a top domestic policy adviser in Bill Clinton's White House. "Politically speaking, there has been a promissory note outstanding for a long time."

Were Obama to fail to follow through, Galston said, he would not only lose credibility, but could damage his party's relationship with Latinos.

"The road to the White House comes through the [Hispanic] community in critical states," said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J. He added that unless Republicans come up with their own proposal for fixing the immigration system, "they're in trouble."

The public has been largely supportive of a comprehensive overhaul of the immigration system and sympathetic to the idea of creating a pathway to citizenship for the more than 11 million illegal immigrants who are estimated to be living in the United States.

But a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released Wednesday found deep misgivings about Obama's expected executive action. Nearly half of those surveyed



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama was to announce an executive order on immigration in an address to the nation Thursday night.

— 48 percent — said they disapprove of the president acting alone on immigration, and only 38 percent said they approved of it.

Former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, a supporter of the president's action, predicted that opposition will fade. Those who benefit, he said, will be grateful for generations — as he said many Latinos feel toward President Ronald Reagan for the amnesty program he signed into law in 1986.

"While the breadth of anger will be wide, the intensity of the ben-

efits will be deep," Cisneros said.

Univision, the widely watched Spanish-language channel, has agreed to delay a portion of the 15th annual Latin Grammys in order to carry Obama's announcement.

Because it is not written into law, the reprieve that Obama grants will by definition be temporary. And Republicans say the action will make it all the more difficult to pass a permanent new law.

"If 'Emperor Obama' ignores the American people and announces an amnesty plan that he

himself has said over and over again exceeds his constitutional authority, he will cement his legacy of lawlessness and ruin the chances for congressional action on this issue — and many others," said Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Many Republicans noted that Democrats controlled both houses of Congress in the early years of the Obama administration and failed to pass an immigration bill.

"We've gone to the president and said, 'Give us time to do immigration reform, to work on the issue this year. We want to get this done.' And this is the reaction he has to that?" said Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the 2012 vice presidential candidate. "He had two years with a super-majority of his own party, and he didn't lift a finger. And now he won't give us a few weeks? He's basically choosing to give us a partisan bomb."

But if it detonates, Republicans realize that they could be the ones injured.

"Republicans have to handle this in a sensitive way," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. He warned that any of them who speaks of impeaching the president over immigration would be shunned by most in the party and "considered pretty erratic and pretty excessive."

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NATION

Air travelers find comfort through therapy dogs

BY WESLEY BROWN

The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

AUGUSTA, Ga. — With two scheduled layovers on her daylong flight home to Nevada, Laura DePersia's nerves were on edge as she waited inside Augusta Regional Airport's terminal.

Then along came Gracie, Slider, Sally and Bob.

The four therapy dogs — a golden retriever, a boxer, a Scottish deerhound and an Australian shepherd — soon made her forget that her first flight to Charlotte, N.C., was delayed for nearly two hours.

While petting Gracie's soft coat, DePersia said she could think only about her two golden retrievers — Katie, 12, and Huger, 14 — who were waiting at home for her in Reno.

"This is a great start to my day," said DePersia, 51, who also had a layover in Phoenix. "It makes me feel right at home."

DePersia's distraction from the stress of flying was exactly what Augusta airport officials were going for last month, when they announced a joint venture with volun-

teers from Therapy Dogs Inc. to introduce a new canine ambassador program, Paws for Pax.

Six certified teams from the company's local branch, Jae-Mar-S Academy of Obedience, will rotate each week, roaming the main terminal and gate area of the airport

to spread happiness and entertainment to travelers who might feel tense about flying, said Marlene Stachowiak, a Therapy Dogs handler.

"Our overall goal is customer service," said Gary LeTeller, the airport's executive director. "We felt, what better way to enhance the customer experience than have friendly dogs walking around the terminal greeting people with wagging tails?"

Therapy dogs are often associated with providing relief for traumatic events, comforting patients in the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army and Charlie Norwood VA medical centers since 1989.

Volunteers estimate that 20 airports nationwide have therapy dogs to ease air-travel worries heightened recently by the

disappearance of Malaysia Airlines 370 in March and the shutdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in July. Besides the fear of catastrophic events, about nine out of 10 travelers surveyed said air travel has become either more of or is as much of a hassle as in the past year, according to a study by the firm ResearchNow for the U.S. Travel Association.

Security lines and checked-bag fees are among the well-publicized headaches, but passengers' No. 1 concern is flight delays or cancellations, according to a news release about the results of the online survey.

"We've found that the presence of therapy dogs is relaxing for people, including air travelers," said Stachowiak, 76, who started participating in the program in 1964 in Europe and Central America. Her current dog is Slider, a 7-year-old boxer.

"Sometimes there's a little longer wait than expected. Sometimes fliers feel so anxious they get here too early and I know from experience traveling with young children that anything is better than saying, 'A little while longer, honey.'"

Stachowiak said each dog is owned by its handler, controlled by a leash at all times and goes through competition-obedience

training and temperament, energy and sensitivity testing before being approved for therapy.

Some dogs are purebreds, but others are rescues, including Sally, a 9-year-old Scottish deerhound who loves treats, tracking and riding in the car.

Mike Quagliano, 67, of Evans, said he got Sally in 2005 from Augusta Animal Services. The 21-year Air Force veteran said Sally breezed through her training.

"I think it's almost as exciting for her as it is for the passengers for her to come to the airport," he said.



Slider



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HOLAHAN, THE AUGUSTA (GA.) CHRONICLE/AP

Top: Marlene Stachowiak, with Paws for Pax, left, stands nearby as Tim Losh pets her dog, Slider, a boxer, during a visit to Augusta Regional Airport in Georgia in October. Above: Maria Figuero pets Bob, an Australian shepherd. Right: Mike Quagliano and his dog, Sally, a Scottish deerhound, walk around looking for passengers to greet.



NATION

One state's solution to a wild pig problem? Eat them.

By LAURA REILEY

Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — When life hands you nuisance pigs, make pork chops.

Since Florida has an estimated 1 million feral pigs — the most in the country per square mile — Charlotte County rancher Keith Mann saw an opportunity to capitalize on that idea in a novel way.

He has established a working relationship with trappers, USDA inspectors and the restaurant community to bring this new

“naturally raised,” “free-range,” “sustainable” and “local” food source to market. Already presiding over Florida’s largest bison



Mann

Ranch, Mann launched his feral pig program last spring, a win-win for homeowners, trappers and restaurant patrons alike. The only losers are the pigs.

Opportunistic omnivores, the pigs breed swiftly, squeeze out other wildlife and wreak havoc on golf courses, agricultural land and even backyard sod. Roaming in all 67 counties of the state, they have been trapped and hunted for decades.

There is no season, no size or bag limits or restrictions on harvesting either gender. That has made wild pigs the second-most popular hunted wildlife in the state behind white-tailed deer.

The sticking point, though, is slaughter. For the meat to be sold, an official USDA inspector must oversee the process.

So Mann put out the call.

“There has been no effective way to control the Counties, neighborhoods and golf courses have been shooting them and letting them lie. The solution is, bring them to me.

“We thought we’d dip our feet in the water, so we put out word

that we were taking pigs at a price that was attractive.” (He declined to reveal pricing, but says it varies by size and number of pigs.)

And the pigs started coming.

The densest populations of nuisance hogs are in rural East Hillsborough and Manatee counties and urban New Tampa, said Parish trapper Jeff Norris, but Mann has trappers coming from Sarasota, Manatee, Lee, Charlotte and other nearby counties.

By 10:30 a.m. on a recent Friday, 20 pigs had been delivered to Three Suns, trappers backing up their trucks to release the live cargo into a fenced holding pen. Descendants of pigs brought by Hernando de Soto in 1539, they are mostly mottled brown, mostly less than 150 pounds and mostly pretty skittish.

Dispatched with a single bullet to the head, a large pig is bled and brought into the refrigerated trailer where head butcher Joey Long skins and readies the carcass with a USDA inspector looking on.

After what Mann describes as 500 years of natural selection, this is “pork with personality.” The meat is dark and lean, certainly not the bland “other white meat” of commercial, corn-raised pork. As with any novel foodstuff or exotic game, the trick has been find-



Chiles

ing a reliable market for it. That’s where Anna Maria restaurant owner Ed Chiles comes in.

Chiles leans back in his office chair, a banana-yellow paddleboard resting behind him and the famously fine-grained sand of Anna Maria

glimting on the other side of the wide window. Handsome and boyishly enthusiastic, he looks a

little like his father, two-time Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles. And really, his enthusiasms don’t run too far from those of his dad.

“My mom was a great cook, and my dad cooked a lot of game. I grew up hunting and fishing and was taught a reverence for game,” he said.

Whereas his father was one of the initial investors in the Red Lobster chain, Ed got his start when he took over Anna Maria’s Sandbar in 1979, which he said “was the proverbial sow’s ear.” He added Mar Vista on Longboat Key to his lineup in 1987 and Anna Maria’s BeachHouse in 1993. Those three moderately priced indoor-outdoor restaurants showcase Florida foods, Chiles functioning as ambassador and cheerleader to what is being achieved locally.

“The most important movement in the 35 years I’ve been in business is ‘local,’” he said. It’s what’s making the food scene blow up. It’s about reconnecting with our food.”

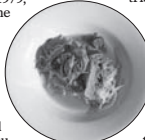
Chiles has worked with Mote



pounds of Mann’s wild pork each week, and other restaurants are following suit. Mann sells the pork to a distributor in Orlando and ships to several national gourmet meat purveyors. So far the meat is not available to consumers at markets.

Marine Laboratory on their sturgeon caviar program; he’s a partner in the Anna Maria Fish Co., which makes bottarga (the succured roe of gray striped mullet); he has partnered with bivalve expert Curt Hemmel on a new project seedling and growing Sun Ray clams; and the list goes on.

Talk with him about Florida’s land animals and things get trickier:



“I love pork, but I try not to eat conventionally raised meat,” Chiles said. “Wild pork is nutty, rich and lean. I like it better than dumbed-down pork. My redneck friends shoot ‘em and leave them on the ground. It doesn’t make sense.”

When he heard about Mann’s feral pig business, he got in touch.

“Feral pigs outcompete other native species,” Chiles said. “Let’s turn this serious problem into an economic development project. I call it taking lemons and making limoncello.”

Chiles’ restaurants prepare 150

Field dressing wild hogs puts hunters at risk of brucellosis infection, and then there are the specters of dangerous diseases such as trichinosis, pseudorabies and leptospirosis. According to D.J. Conner, who regulates animals coming in and out of the state for Florida’s Department of Agriculture, if it’s cooked thoroughly (the USDA says that means an internal temperature of 160), it poses no greater risk than commercial pork.

Mann, who served in the Army for nine years, became familiar with “alternative proteins” during tours in Afghanistan. His 2,500 head of bison are his primary focus, but he said he’d be happy if the feral pig business became a larger piece.

“The ‘if you can’t beat ‘em, eat ‘em’ strategy for invasives, gaining ground all over the country, is only feasible if visionaries like Mann and Chiles come together to address all the roadblocks along the supply chain.

Top: Feral pigs are kept in a pen before they are slaughtered at Keith Mann’s Three Suns Ranch in Punta Gorda, Fla. The pigs are kept in the pen for up to five days. The USDA-inspected meat is then sold to area restaurants. Inset: A pork and sauerkraut dish from the Sandbar Restaurant, owned by Ed Chiles, is displayed in Anna Maria Island. Chiles sells dishes using pork from Three Suns Ranch. Left: Pork hangs inside a refrigerated container. Right: Three Suns Ranch worker Carl Skinner adjusts the pig pen.

PHOTOS BY MONICA HERNDON, TAMPA BAY (FLA.) TIMES/AP



WORLD

UN: Killings, displacement rise in Ukraine

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Nearly 300 people were killed since Oct. 18 in fighting which continues in eastern Ukraine despite a cease-fire agreement, United Nations human rights investigators said Thursday.

A new report from the U.N. monitoring team in Ukraine said at least 4,317 people have been killed — up from the 4,042 deaths reported in October — from mid-April until Tuesday.

The number of internally displaced people has sharply increased to 466,829, compared with 275,489 as of Sept. 18, the report said.

Russia, meanwhile, reacted sharply to a U.S. official's comment that Washington should consider supplying weapons to Ukraine.

"We repeatedly heard confirmations from the (U.S.) administration that only nonlethal weapons would be delivered to Ukraine. If there is a change in

this policy, then this is a highly destabilizing factor that could seriously influence the balance of power in the region," said Alexander Lukashevich, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Tony Blinken, the deputy national security adviser, told a U.S. Senate committee on Wednesday that strengthening Ukraine's forces is "something we should be looking at."

The Obama administration has resisted supplying arms to Ukraine, although there is

broad support in Congress for doing so.

The report released by the U.N. human rights office in Geneva cited allegations of serious human rights abuses by armed groups including torture, detention, executions, forced labor and sexual violence that "are of a systematic nature and may amount to crimes against humanity."

It says the standoff between government troops and pro-Russia rebels battling in eastern Ukraine "is becoming increas-

ingly entrenched, with the total breakdown of law and order and the emergence of parallel governance systems" in Donetsk, the largest city under separatist control, and in the rebel-controlled section of the Luhansk region.

The report warned that treatment for almost 60,000 HIV-positive patients and 11,600 multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis patients could be disrupted by a lack of medicine, which "may lead to the uncontrolled spread of epidemics."

Japanese use technology to engineer bluefin tuna

The Associated Press

TATEYAMA, Japan — Of all the overfished fish in the sea, luscious, fatty bluefin tuna are among the most threatened. Marine scientist Goro Yamazaki, who is known in this seaside community as "Young Mr. Fish," is working to ensure the species survives.

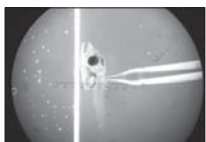
Yamazaki is fine-tuning a technology to use mackerel surrogates to spawn the bluefin, a process he hopes will enable fisheries to raise the huge, torpedo-shaped fish more quickly and at lower cost than conventional aquaculture. The aim is to relieve pressure on wild fish stocks while preserving vital genetic diversity.

Soaring consumption and aggressive modern harvesting methods that have transformed the bluefin from a delicacy into a commonly available, if pricey, option at any sushi bar.

Yamazaki's technique involves extracting reproductive stem cells from the discarded guts of tuna into mackerel fry. The baby fish are put in an anesthetic solution and then transferred by dropper onto a slide under the microscope.

Under the right conditions, the tuna stem cells migrate into the ovaries and testes of the mackerel. The team is now waiting to see if the mackerel, when mature, will spawn tuna, and if the tuna will survive. Following that, they could be released into the sea or farmed.

The research team has already succeeded in using surrogate technology to produce tiger puffer fish and trout spawned by salmon.



A researcher demonstrates how to use a minute needle to insert reproductive cells from a bluefin tuna into a mackerel fry.



Forensic workers remove a body in the village of Cablotales, near Santa Barbara, Honduras, on Wednesday. The bodies of Miss Honduras 2014 and her sister were found buried near the spa where they disappeared a week earlier, according to Honduras National Police Director Gen. Ramon Sabillon.

Miss Honduras, sister slain in jealous fit

The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Honduras — Tears and anger poured out for the dark-haired beauty who was to have flown to London on Wednesday to represent Honduras at the Miss World pageant, only to be found shot to death with her sister on a remote river bank.

After the bodies of the reigning Miss Honduras, Maria Jose Alvarado, 19, and her sister Sofia, 23, were discovered early in the day, police announced that the sister's boyfriend had confessed to killing them last week in a fit of jealousy over his girlfriend dancing with another man.

Dozens of relatives and friends of the beauty queen gathered for a candlelight vigil at the college she attended, remembering a down-to-earth young woman who aspired to be a diplomat, went out without makeup and worked as a model to help support a humble family.

The Center for Women's Rights, based in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, issued a statement condemning the sisters' killing and slain 328 women have been slain in this Central American nation so far in 2014.

"The case of Mary Jose and Sofia show clearly the situation of generalized violence against women and the nonexistent response of the Honduran government to prevent, investigate or punish it," the statement said.

The bodies believed to be the sisters were found buried near the spa where they disappeared a week earlier while celebrating the birthday of the sister's boyfriend, Plutarco Ruiz.

At some point during the night of Nov. 13, a heated argument broke out over the sister dancing with another man and Ruiz pulled a gun, firing first at his girlfriend and then at Alvarado as she tried to flee, said the National Police director, Gen. Ramon Sabillon. Alvarado was hit twice in the back.

Claudio Cecilio Munoz, an uncle of the sisters, said Ruiz came to the family's modest house on a dirt road the day after the young women disappeared to invite them to lunch, and returned several days to help with the search. He described Ruiz not as a boyfriend, but as someone who was courting his niece.

"We didn't file a complaint right

away because we were waiting for a telephone call asking for ransom," Munoz said. "On Saturday their mother and I went to put in a complaint and the killer was with us."

Ruiz led investigators to the gravesite where he and an alleged accomplice buried them in Santa Barbara, about 240 miles west of Tegucigalpa.

Alvarado's body, wrapped in brown plastic, was loaded into the back of a pickup truck

just hours before she was to have boarded a flight to London to compete in the Miss World pageant. A winner will be crowned Dec. 14.

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Palestinian families get notices for demolition

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli police on Thursday handed home demolition notices to families of two more attackers from east Jerusalem, a Palestinian official said, a day after security personnel destroyed a home there for the first time in five years.

The destructions are a renewed tactic meant as a punitive measure for a wave of Palestinian attacks on Israelis, including a deadly assault on a Jerusalem synagogue this week. Although the tactic has caused much controversy and debate over its effectiveness, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stepped up the demolition orders in an effort to halt the violence.

Adnan Hussein, the Palestinian Authority minister for Jerusalem affairs, said the families of Ibrahim al-Akari and Moutaz Hijazi received the notices on Thursday. An Israeli police spokesman said he was checking the report.

Al-Akari was shot dead by security forces after killing two Israelis earlier this month when he rammed his car into a Jerusalem light rail station. Israeli police also killed Hijazi after he shot and seriously wounded an Israeli activist who has lobbied for greater Jewish access to a sensitive Jerusalem holy site in October.

Netanyahu has called for tough action amid a wave of attacks against Israelis. Eleven people have died in five separate incidents in recent weeks — most of them in Jerusalem, but also in Tel Aviv and the occupied West Bank. At least five Palestinians involved in the attacks were killed.

The attacks reached a new turning point Tuesday when two Palestinian assailants burst into a crowded synagogue during morning prayers, killing four worshipers and a Druze Arab policeman with meat cleavers and gunfire.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said Thursday that militants in the Gaza Strip test-fired rockets into the Mediterranean Sea in an apparent attempt to show off their capabilities.



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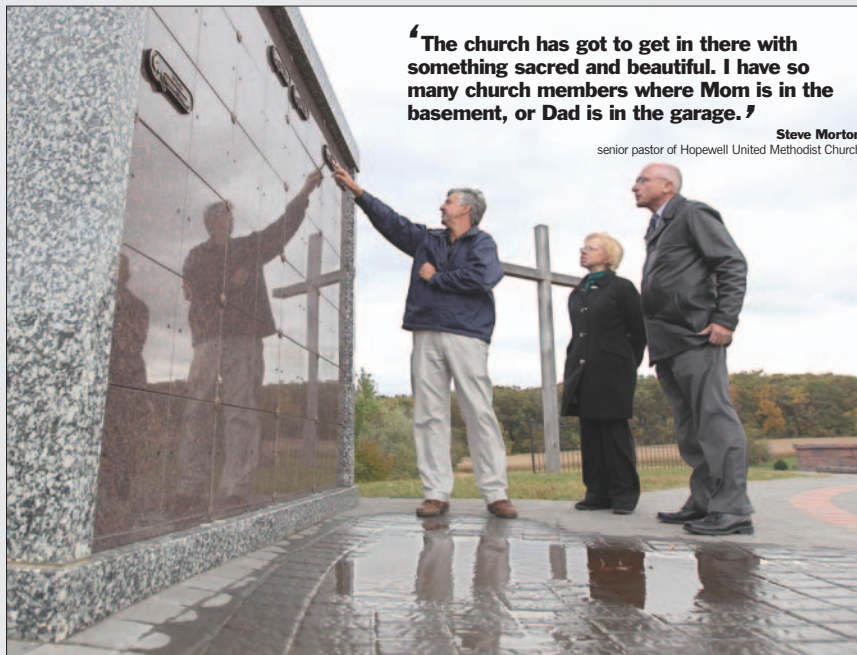
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FAITH



‘The church has got to get in there with something sacred and beautiful. I have so many church members where Mom is in the basement, or Dad is in the garage.’

Steve Morton
senior pastor of Hopewell United Methodist Church

From left, senior pastor Steve Morton, director of lay ministries Debra Boyd and pastor Dan Hepner examine nameplates on the newly constructed columbaria in the Hopewell Cemetery in Downingtown, Pa., in October. Boyd was the first member of the church to purchase a spot in the columbaria — a place to publicly store cremated remains.

MICHAEL BRYANT, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

By MICHAELLE BOND
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Steve Morton read a few years ago that changing religious views, convenience and the recession were leading more people to choose cremation. As the senior pastor of Hopewell United Methodist Church in Downingtown, Pa., he knew he had to respond.

“The church has got to get in there with something sacred and beautiful,” Morton said he and other church officials thought. “I have so many church members where Mom is in the basement, or Dad is in the garage.”

So the church opened a memorial garden and two columbaria last year for the cremated remains of congregants and community members. The church has a long-term plan to build up to four more columbaria, which contain niches to hold urns.

In 2007, about 35 percent of people who died in the United States were cremated, according to the Cremation Association of North America. By 2017, 49 percent will be cremated.

As those numbers have increased, churches big and small have worked to offer attractive options for cremated remains. They are planting memorial gardens for scattering or burying what are known as cremains. They are designing permanent homes of different sizes and shapes for rows of urns. Some churches have made these additions even if they do not have a cemetery for traditional burials.

Different teachings dictate what churches can do with cremains. For example, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia issued revised guidelines to parishes last year

Ashes & ashes

Churches respond to an increase in cremation with columbaria, gardens

about cremation. It said remains cannot be scattered. They must be buried in a cemetery or encased in a columbarium or mausoleum.

Only some Jewish leaders permit cremation. In the Philadelphia area, about 20 percent of Jewish families who use Dignity Memorial's Jewish funeral homes and cemeteries choose cremation, said Eric Wolverson, the Pennsylvania regional president of Dignity Memorial, a national network of more than 2,000 funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers.

Churches pass out brochures highlighting beautiful landscaping and natural views they can offer at their cemeteries and gardens. Some gardens even attract members of the community to walk through or sit and read.

The brochures also emphasize that choosing gardens or columbaria is less expensive than burial. The median cost of a funeral in the United States was about \$7,000 in 2012, according to the National

Funeral Directors Association. The average cost of an in-ground burial—including a stone, casket, excavation and burial lot—at Hopewell United Methodist Church is \$16,000. A niche in one of the church's columbaria is \$1,600. Scattering in the garden is \$350.

Many people choose cremation so they can postpone funeral services until family members can travel to the location, said Jim Foreman, manager of Paoli Presbyterian Church's memorial garden.

A brick wall around the edge of the garden there acts as a columbarium. About 150 people plan for their cremated remains to be buried in the church's memorial garden, created in 1991. About 100 more have reserved space within the brick wall around the edge of the garden. The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr has three cremations for every one full-bodied burial in its graveyard, said Jay Einspanier, the church's administrator.

Many people have bypassed the indoor

columbarium the church has had for decades in favor of the memorial garden. “It’s just a nicer setting,” Einspanier said.

At St. John's Evangelical Episcopal Church in Phoenixville, church and community members have reserved about half of the 112 niches available in the Columbarium Garden since the garden opened in November. The church of about 700 members plans to start phase II—with 112 more niches—in a couple of years. The third phase will follow.

When Hopewell United Methodist Church officials reserved 15 acres in 1960 for future expansion of the cemetery, they had no idea the expansion would be upward as well as outward, said Arnie Kring, chair of the “cemetery enhancement project.”

Two granite and marble columbaria that each house 96 niches rise up on each side of a memorial garden and a labyrinth made of pavers where people can congregate. Including landscaping and driveway paving, the expansion cost nearly \$130,000.

One of the columbarium niches belongs to Kim and Jim Schywstzell, ages 54 and 56.

They are the first in their families to choose cremation. They said they like the affordability and the elimination of the need for family members, who are spread throughout the country, to tend to graves.

“This is a gift for our children,” Kim Schywstzell said.

Debra Boyd, 61, recently traded in her burial plot at Hopewell for a niche in one of its columbaria.

“The joke here is that I have the penthouse,” she said. “The top corner facing the east. It’s a beautiful view from that corner.”

WORLD



MARK GARTEN, UNITED NATIONS/AP

The United Nations sought to draw attention to a global sanitation crisis with a 15-foot-high inflatable toilet and a "Toilets Save Lives!" banner in front of its headquarters Wednesday in observance of "World Toilet Day."

Ode to toilet: A global crisis

UN raises awareness of sanitation issues with 15-foot toilet

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Yes, that was a large inflatable toilet standing outside the United Nations headquarters. Wednesday was World Toilet Day.

Far from a laughing matter, the world body was seeking to draw attention Wednesday to a global sanitation crisis: 2.5 billion people lack basic sanitation services, and 1 billion people — or one in every seven people — still defecate in the open.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement that the world has a "moral impera-

tive" to end open defecation so that women and girls are not at risk of rape because they lack a private place to use the toilet.

The campaign to end open defecation has been especially high-profile in recent months, with India's prime minister raising the issue at a U.N.-sponsored concert in New York during the annual General Assembly of world leaders in September. The campaign even printed special toilet paper rolls with statistics and placed them in U.N. restrooms during the meeting.

Children drink water every day

that is mixed with their neighbors' feces, according to the campaign. A child dies every 2.5 minutes of diarrheal diseases due to water contaminated with feces.

The inflatable toilet, 15 feet high, was the latest project. It was taken down Wednesday afternoon because of high winds.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson told reporters Wednesday that sanitation is one area where the world is behind in meeting ambitious anti-poverty goals adopted by world leaders in 2000 with a deadline of 2015, and that needed to change.

Woman suspected of killing her husbands

TOKYO — Japanese police arrested a 67-year-old woman they suspect poisoned her husband late last year, one of about half a dozen former husbands or partners of the woman who have died.

She has denied involvement in the deaths.

Kyoto prefectural police arrested Chisako Kakehi on Wednesday after cyanide was found in the body of her 75-year-old husband, according to Japanese media re-

ports. They were married one month before he died in December 2013, the reports said.

Kyodo news service said that Kakehi had married four times, and that several partners had died within a few years of marrying her or starting relationships with her.

Cyanide has also been found in the blood of a 71-year-old partner who fell while riding a minibus in 2012, Kyodo said. His death was initially attributed to heart disease.

From The Associated Press

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FACES

'I'm going to say what I think'

Affleck praises wife, talks Bill Maher spat

By JOHN CARUCCI
The Associated Press

Ben Affleck feels more comfortable speaking his mind than pretending to say what people want to hear. So before receiving his award at Wednesday's Save the Children Illumination Gala, he praised wife Jennifer Garner on her dedication to their family, and then shared insight into his recent spat with "Real Time" host Bill Maher over generalized remarks about Islam.

On an episode last month, Affleck took issue with Maher saying that Islam is "the only religion that acts like the Mafia."

"I was ultimately making a 'Sesame Street' argument. You don't judge a whole group of people based on the actions of a few," Affleck said of their heated debate.

The "Gone Girl" actor makes no bones about speaking his mind when it comes to hot-button issues. "That's the environment around my dinner table when we talk politics," he said. "I think I'd rather tell the truth and say what I believe in and make people unhappy than sort of pretend to think something else to accommodate them and try to be liked. That's just the way it goes and I don't think I'm any great champion of anything, but if they're going to put me on a show, I'm going to say what I think."

As for Garner, the 42-year-old actor says he's grateful that his wife takes on the "lion's share" of responsibilities, dedicating her time to raising their three young children, while maintaining her career and charity work.

"She's been really smart about choosing her projects, doing 'Dallas Buyers Club' or 'Alexander and the Terrible, Day, smart, good movies that luckily have been successful. And then, they're not so time-consuming that she can't do this work and be there for our kids, which is the most important thing to her," Affleck said. Garner spoke of how the couple divides their time for philanthropy. "He works on Eastern Congo Initiative, and I work on the U.S. programs for Save the Children, and within that, I really work on getting kids started on the right foot



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Actor, filmmaker and Eastern Congo Initiative founder Ben Affleck, left, and wife and actress Jennifer Garner attended the 2nd Annual Save the Children Illumination Gala in New York City on Wednesday. Affleck was honored at the event.

from birth to 5, helping families get their kids up and ready for school and healthy," she said, adding: "We don't scatter our energy around."

Affleck co-founded the Eastern Congo Initiative in 2010 with Whitney Williams. The organization advocates the economic and social growth of the country through various programs.

Affleck was honored with the Global Child Advocate Award for his support in providing children around the world a stronger start in life. Among the evening's other recipients were former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who received the Global Legacy Award, and Austin Heurt of the Hearst Corp., who was honored with the Humanitarian Award.

Bono seriously injured in bicycle accident

An injury to U2 singer Bono after what was described by the group as a "cycling spill" left him with multiple fractures that required him to undergo two surgeries, a doctor said Wednesday.

Bono was in a "high-energy bicycle accident" when he was trying to avoid a cyclist on Sunday, orthopedic trauma surgeon Dr. Dean Lorch said in a statement from NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Hospital for Special Surgery.



Bono

Bono arrived at the Manhattan hospital and underwent multiple X-rays and tests that showed he had a facial fracture involving his left eye socket, his left shoulder blade fractured in three places and a left elbow fracture that went through the skin and left the bone in six pieces.

Lorch said Bono underwent a five-hour surgery that included washing his elbow out, moving a trapped nerve and inserting three plates and 18 screws on Sunday night. Bono had another surgery to repair a fracture to his left little finger on Monday.

Lorch said Bono will need therapy but a full recovery is expected.

Klay wins book award

Phil Klay's "Redeployment," a debut collection of searching, satiric and often agonized stories by an Iraq war veteran, has won the National Book Award for fiction.

Klay was chosen Wednesday night. His book was the first debut release to win in fiction since 2002, the first story collection to win since Andrea Barrett's "Ship Fever" in 1996 and the first fiction win for an Iraq veteran.



Klay

Clearly surprised and moved, the 31-year-old Klay — among the youngest fiction winners ever — spoke of his work as an essential way to understand and communicate his 13 months in Iraq and the adjustment back home.

"War's too strange to be processed alone," he said, thanking readers who "decided to join the conversation."

The nonfiction prize went to Evan Osment for "Age of Ambition." Former U.S. poet laureate Louise Glück's "Faithful and Virtuous Union" won for poetry, and Jacqueline Woodson's "Brown Girl Dreaming" won for young people's literature.

Other news

■ **Mike Love**, a founding member of the Beach Boys and lead singer on such hits as "Surfer's U.S.A.," has an agreement with Blue Rider Press for "Good Vibrations: My Life as a Beach Boy." Blue Rider, an imprint of Penguin Random House, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the memoir is scheduled for a 2016 release.

■ **Jimmy Ruffin**, the Motown singer whose hits include "What Becomes of the Broken Hearted" and "Hold on My Love," died Monday in a Las Vegas hospital. He was 78.

■ NBC has scrapped a **Bill Cosby** comedy that was under development and TV Land will stop airing reruns of "The Cosby Show," moves that came a day after another woman came forward claiming that the comic had sexually assaulted her.

■ The Library of Congress honored singer and songwriter **Billy Joel** with the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song on Wednesday.

From The Associated Press

LL Cool J, Chaka Khan help honor Quincy Jones

By ANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

Though Quincy Jones and LL Cool J never collaborated musically, the rapper says Jones has played a major role in his life.

"You just really taught me to be a man," LL Cool J said Wednesday in a heartfelt introduction of his mentor and friend at Ebony magazine's annual Power 100 gala, where Jones was the guest of honor.

He received a lifetime achievement award at the event, which recognizes black

Americans who are wielding considerable power, such as TV producer Shonda Rhimes, New York Times editor Dean Baquet, physicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and Little League star Mo'Né Davis.

LL Cool J said Jones is like a father to him and called him "the greatest producer in the history of music."

Fittingly, the 81-year-old producer, com-



Jones

poser and philanthropist was celebrated in song. Chaka Khan also said Jones feels like family. He's "like an uncle, even a father," she said as she dedicated her performance of "Sweet Thing" to him. James Ingram sang two hits that Jones produced: "Just Once" and "One Hundred Ways." Ingram also shared a duet with Patti Austin.

Jones was recognized for his philanthropic efforts and six-decade career. He's worked with the greats, from Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson. He's scored feature films — 38 of them — and earned seven Academy Award nominations.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



ERIC SCHULTZ, AL.COM/AP

Signs of Christmas

Workers hang a new holiday billboard showing Santa Claus taking a drink in Huntsville, Ala.

Floating strip club flourishes near port

AK ANCHORAGE — After a bumpy start, a floating strip club is finding prosperity in the waters off Kodiak.

Darren Byler, owner of Wild Alaskan, a crab boat converted to a strip club, said business has been “wildly successful” in the commercial fishing port.

Customers reach the club by water taxi. A few days after it opened, a complaint that the vessel was overloaded led to law enforcement agencies and the Coast Guard briefly closing the club.

Kodiak City Manager Aimee Kniazowski said the club pays city taxes but operates in state waters. The business charges \$20 per hour as a charter fee and allows only 12 customers on board at a time.

Bicyclist arrested after tussling with police

FL NEWSMYRNA BEACH — An intoxicated central Florida man wanted Taco Bell, but employees wouldn't serve him because he was on a bicycle in the drive-through lane.

They called New Smyrna Beach police when Gabriel Harris, 33, refused to leave after placing an order at the drive-through window as the restaurant was closing just after 3 a.m. Sunday.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported police found

THE CENSUS

8 The number of stories high a new billboard stretches in New York City. The megascreen in front of the Marriott Marquis hotel is billed as Times Square's biggest and most expensive digital billboard. The football-field length screen is at what's known as the “bow tie,” where Seventh Avenue intersects with Broadway. The New York Times says the Universal Everything studio collective will animate the screen until Nov. 24, then Google will take over as the debut advertiser.

Harris still sitting on the bicycle at the speaker. As officers asked him to leave, they spotted a Swiss Army knife on his belt loop. An officer reached for the knife, but Harris grabbed his wrist. The officer wrestled Harris to the ground and arrested him.

Judge delays repeated ex-mob boss' sentence

PA PHILADELPHIA — The reputed former Philadelphia mob boss who was ordered back to prison for violating his parole won't have to start his sentence until January.

The Philadelphia Daily News reported that Joseph “Skinny Joey” Merlino won't start his four-month prison sentence next week for failing to report an encounter he had with a former co-defendant.

Merlino has been living in Florida after spending about a decade behind bars following a 2001 racketeering trial. As part of his release, he's not supposed to have contact with fellow mobsters.

Merlino told the judge he just happened to bump into John “Johnny Chang” Ciancaglini in June and forgot to report it.



AP

Police: Woman used small child to steal

RI LINCOLN — Lincoln police are looking for a woman they say used a small child to help her steal from a customer at Target.

WJAR-TV reported the woman directed the child to steal a stroller with an infant car seat and diaper bag that was left unattended briefly at the store on Nov. 11.

Police said the woman and child walked out of the store with the items.

Body cameras for police OK'd despite veto vow

MD BALTIMORE — The Baltimore City Council has passed a bill to make city police officers wear body cameras despite the mayor's promise to veto it.

The bill would require officers to wear audio and video recording devices and comes in response to officer-involved shootings in the city.

In an editorial in The Baltimore Sun, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said that though “well-in-

tioned,” the legislation didn't address privacy concerns and how data collected by the cameras would be stored or include an estimated cost for maintenance.

Ring flushed down toilet is returned to family

CA UNION CITY — Sanitation workers have reunited a San Francisco Bay Area family with an heirloom diamond and sapphire ring that their 3-year-old son flushed down the toilet.

After several attempts, Union Sanitary District crews found the ring last week, about a month and a half after it disappeared from Munazzar and Mehvish Tapal's Union City home. Wastewater Collection Supervisor Shawn Nesgis said the ring traveled about one-third of a mile.

More charges filed in shooting spree case

IA DES MOINES — Additional charges have been filed against a man accused of randomly shooting people in a Des Moines suburb.

Court records show Pete Jason Polson, 32, now faces several drug charges, including possession with intent to deliver. He remains at the Polk County jail under \$840,000 cash bond.

Polson already faces several charges in connection with a Monday morning shooting in Pleasant Hill, including two counts of attempted murder. Police said he injured two men and shot at a third in separate incidents.

Interstate lanes reopen after cattle truck crash

KY FRANKFORT — Authorities have reopened most lanes on Interstate 64 in central Kentucky after a truck hauling cattle overturned.

Lanes in both directions were initially closed after about 15 cows got loose.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office said the trailer was carrying about 110 head of cattle. Some were killed in the crash and at least one was killed when it was hit by another vehicle.

School to accept food items to settle tickets

DE NEWARK — The University of Delaware is offering people who've gotten parking tickets on campus a way to get out of paying their fines while helping those in need.

Beginning Monday, the university will allow parking citations to be paid for with nonperishable food items. Each food item will count as \$5 toward the cost of a parking ticket less than 30 days old.

The food drive will run through the end of the semester on Dec. 12. From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Thanksgiving dinner cost up slightly

The Associated Press

Giving thanks will be a little costlier this year, but — and here's something you can be truly thankful for — it probably won't empty your wallet.

The price for putting Thanksgiving dinner on the table is expected to rise slightly this year, clocking in at \$494. That's 37 cents higher than in 2013.

For that, you can blame dairy products, coffee and that all-important marshmallow-topped

sweet potato casserole, according to the annual informal survey of consumer grocery prices performed by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The group found that the price of dairy — as in milk for the mashed potatoes and whipped cream for the pies — collectively jumped 25 cents over last year. Miscellaneous ingredients, such as coffee, sugar and eggs, account for another 28 cents, while 3 pounds of sweet potatoes jumped 20 cents.

The good news is that a drop in fuel prices won't just make it cheaper to drive to Grandma's house for the big meal, it also helped keep down the cost of some ingredients.

Flour-based foods, such as stuffing mix, pie shells and dinner rolls, will run about 21 cents less than last year, likely due to energy cost savings by the processors, said John Anderson, the Farm Bureau's deputy chief economist.

The group estimates the cost of

Thanksgiving dinner by averaging nonsale food prices around the country based on feeding 10 people a meal of turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, carrots and celery, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and coffee and milk.

Their estimates account for needing leftovers.

And here's something to consider: Though this year's cost is up, it's still 7 cents lower than in 2012.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 21)	\$1.2867
Dollar buys (Nov. 21)	€0.7772
British pound (Nov. 21)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Nov. 21)	¥114.00
South Korean won (Nov. 21)	₩1,082.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.5715/0.6363
Canada (dollar)	1.1304
China (Yuan)	6.1235
Denmark (Krone)	5.9289
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.2554/0.7965
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7560
Hungary (Forint)	242.85
Israel (Shekel)	3.8419
Japan (Yen)	118.01
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2913
Norway (Krone)	6.7560
Philippines (Peso)	45.31
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7519
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3903
South Korea (Won)	1,112.38
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9579
Thailand (Baht)	32.83
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2440

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the euro, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	1.5
Federal funds market rate	0.11
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.08

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.197	\$3.391	\$3.573	\$3.964
Change in price	-4.7 cents	-4.6 cents	-4.5 cents	-1.6 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.174	\$4.443	\$4.450
Change in price	---	-5.2 cents	-4.8 cents	-1.0 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.361	\$4.056	\$3.934
Change in price	---	-4.6 cents	no change	-1.6 cents
Azores	---	---	\$3.686	---
Change in price	---	---	-2.1 cents	---
Turkey	---	---	\$3.375	\$3.827
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Italy	---	---	\$3.948	\$4.445
Change in price	---	---	-1.2 cents	no change
Italy	\$4.428	---	---	\$4.466
Change in price	no change	---	---	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.359	---	\$3.749
Change in price	---	-4.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.979	---	---	\$3.749
Change in price	-22 cents	---	---	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.010	---	\$3.399	\$3.789
Change in price	-5.0 cents	---	-4.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.009**	\$3.199	\$3.389	---
Change in price	-5.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-4.0 cents	---

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Nov. 22-28

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 19, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-2.09
Nasdaq composite	-26.73
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.08
Russell 2000	-12.60
	1,157.89

WEATHER OUTLOOK



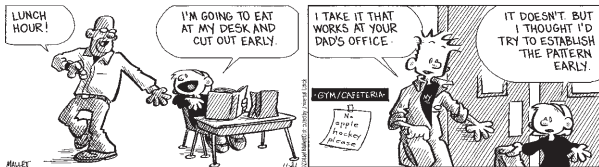
Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlington, Tex.	67	55	Cldy	Chattanooga	55	36	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	25	19	Pcldy	Louisville	68	33	Cldy
Atlanta, Ga.	67	55	Cldy	Cheney	51	28	Pcldy	Fresno	62	49	Cldy	Lubbock	65	43	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	44	16	Pcldy	Chicago	28	26	Cldy	Goodland	50	25	Pcldy	Macon	63	36	Cldy
Albuquerque	54	33	Cldy	Cincinnati	32	24	Cir	Grand Junction	48	34	Cldy	Madison	25	22	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	35	17	Cir	Cleveland	26	21	Snow	Grand Rapids	24	15	Cldy	Medford	50	46	Rain
Amarillo	61	37	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	54	25	Pcldy	Great Falls	42	31	Cir	Memphis	55	47	Cldy
Anchorage	35	29	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	57	30	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	46	26	Cir	Midland-Odessa	70	48	Pcldy
Asheville	48	28	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	63	41	Cir	Harrisburg	32	21	Cir	Milwaukee	26	22	Cldy
Atlanta	58	37	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	32	16	Cir	Hartford	32	16	Cir	Minneapolis	26	25	Pcldy
Atlantic City	36	20	Cir	Cornwall, Conn.	80	69	Cir	Helena	41	27	Pcldy	Missoula	37	32	Cldy
Austin	61	37	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	71	40	Cldy	Honolulu	84	71	Cir	Mobile	71	50	Cir
Baltimore	32	23	Cir	Dayton	26	21	Cir	Houston	74	62	Cir	Montgomery	66	42	Cir
Baton Rouge	71	51	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	72	60	Pcldy	Huntsville	54	39	Pcldy	Nashville	51	41	Cldy
Biloxi	46	28	Pcldy	Denver	37	18	Pcldy	Indianapolis	31	27	Cir	New Orleans	70	58	Cir
Birmingham	60	43	Pcldy	Des Moines	34	31	Cldy	Jacksonville	68	45	Pcldy	New York City	37	26	Cir
Bismarck	38	22	Cldy	Detroit	27	18	Pcldy	Jacksonville	65	52	Cir	Newark	38	25	Cir
Boise	30	24	Cldy	Duluth	32	16	Cldy	Juneau	42	34	Rain	Norfolk-Va.	40	30	Cir
Boston	36	24	Cir	El Paso	66	44	Cldy	Kansas City	40	38	Cldy	North Platte	47	21	Cldy
Bridgport	38	23	Cir	Elkins	28	13	Cldy	Key West	79	73	Cldy	Oaklahoma City	61	50	Cir
Brownsville	80	69	Cir	Erie	29	22	Snow	Knoxville	51	31	Pcldy	Omaha	36	28	Cir
Buffalo	24	19	Cldy	Eugene	52	48	Rain	Lake Charles	73	55	Cldy	Orlando	74	60	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	28	17	Cldy	Evansville	42	30	Cir	Lansing	40	37	Cir	Paducah	45	41	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	26	9	Cldy	Fargo	10	-10	Cir	Las Vegas	62	45	Cldy	Pendleton	45	41	Cldy
Casper	43	28	Cir	Fargo	26	15	Cldy	Lexington	37	29	Cir	Peoria	33	29	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	62	38	Cir	Flagstaff	43	21	Cldy	Lincoln	38	29	Cir	Philadelphia	36	24	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	36	23	Pcldy	Flint	25	17	Pcldy	Little Rock	56	48	Rain	Phoenix	70	50	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	50	28	Cir	Fort Smith	57	48	Rain	Los Angeles	70	55	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	25	18	Cldy

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 77, at Esirone, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz.
Lo: Wed., 12, Lucerne, Wyo.

Frazz



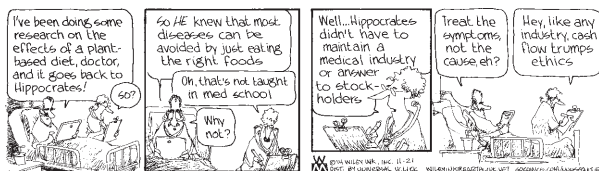
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



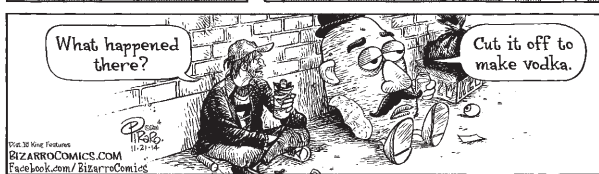
Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16			17					
18				19								
20				21		22			23	24	25	26
				27	28			29	30			
31	32	33						34				
35						36		37				
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
					45				46		47	
48	49	50	51								52	
53						54					55	
56						57					58	

ACROSS

- Will Ferrell title role
- Sitter's seat
- Lowly laborers
- Pointlessness?
- Bachelorette's final answer
- Diplomatic agent
- Literary collection
- Helen Reddy song
- Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
- Ignite
- 20 Snitched
- 22 Three, in Rome
- 23 Freshshadow
- 27 Officeholders
- 29 Role in almost every whodunit
- 31 English china
- 34 Autumnal quaff
- 35 Mingle
- 37 Harden
- 38 Maze goal
- 39 Feedbag morsel
- 41 Region
- 45 Blue hue
- 47 Gen., Exod., Lev., —
- 48 Connery's "Entrapment" co-star
- 52 List-ending abbr.
- 53 Old marketplace
- 54 Spigot

DOWN

- Play charades
- Vernacular
- Swing about
- Covers
- 5 Skilled ones
- 6 On top of the world?
- Mountaineer's challenge
- 8 Stop
- 9 Eggs
- 10 Present
- 11 Wd. from Roget
- 17 Arduous journey
- 21 Failed to
- 23 Intense media
- 24 Antiquated
- 25 Sandra or Ruby
- 26 Mess up
- 28 Ultramodernist
- 30 "Rocks"
- 31 Yon maiden
- 32 Pestilence
- 33 Japanese sash
- 36 Long-popular TV clown
- 37 Jog sans togs
- 40 Family members
- 42 Shaq's last name
- 43 Eccentric
- 44 Sajak or Trebek
- 45 Open some
- 46 Get a glimpse of
- 48 Microwave
- 49 Swelled head
- 50 AAAA job
- 51 Common verb

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	S	S	C	A	N	S	C	O	M	B
I	C	Y	O	L	I	O	A	H	O	Y
D	U	N	M	I	L	L	S	T	O	N
E	M	C	E	E	O	A	K			
			E	D	D	A	C	I	R	C
M	I	L	L	I	O	N	S	N	E	A
I	V	Y	C	R	A	T	I	G	I	K
N	A	R	C	M	I	L	L	I	N	E
K	N	E	E	L	S	O	I	L		
			Y	E	S		S	L	I	D
M	I	L	L	I	C	E	N	T	S	O
O	R	E	O		A	G	U	E	L	I
W	E	A	N	B	O	N	N		E	N

11-21

CRYPTOQUIP

U'C K M J O M K R M O N M K D

V X X M T K J W M O F U W J M E U X V N

P Y P K J W. E P V R U K D J F P C D U Y P W

C P X F E M K U X N P F P V R X F P W.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU BELIEVED AN ATTRACTIVE FORCE OF NATURE WERE DIVINE, WOULD YOU BE DEIFYING GRAVITY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

For liberals, it's a Keystone cop-out

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

Building the Keystone XL pipeline, to speed the flow of crude from Canada's oil sands to refineries in Texas would be "game over for the climate," says NASA-scientist-turned-climate-activist James Hansen. Heeding Hansen's words, environmentalists have sworn to stop the project, which requires U.S. government approval.

Yet large, bipartisan majorities of the House and Senate support Keystone XL, as does 60 percent of the American public, according to the latest USA Today poll.

Today, it still is on hold, because Tuesday night 41 Senate Democrats voted against ending debate on a bill to green-light Keystone XL, thus thwarting what might have been a disastrous exercise of democracy.

In short, the filibuster may have just saved the planet, at least for now.

Or so it must be believed by Keystone XL's opponents, even though they include some of the people who derided the filibuster, not unreasonably, as an obstructionist, anti-majoritarian evil when Republicans employed it against President Barack Obama's health care reform, cap-and-trade and other progressive legislation.

Majority rule is not the only progressive principle some progressives seem ready to sacrifice on the anti-Keystone altar.

Remember the corrupting influence of money on politics? Billionaire Tom Steyer has spent millions on TV ads backing environmental Democrats and trashing the pipeline itself, thus purchasing undue influence in the White House and the Democratic Party.

"On issues as critical as climate change, we will take action and work within the system that we've got until we can change

it," Steyer pragmatically told Forbes magazine.

Most of the time, liberals tout the job-creating potential of critical infrastructure projects, based on the indirect "multiplier effect" that even short-term construction can have on economic growth.

For Keystone XL, though, different rules apply. We are instructed, by Daniel Weiss of the Center for American Progress, among others, that the \$8 billion project will create "only" 3,900 "direct" one-year construction jobs and a mere 50 permanent ones. Forget the 42,000 jobs that a State Department analysis said would be "supported" by the project.

Construction unions understand that employment in their field is inherently temporary, in the sense that it ends when the building is built. They strongly favor Keystone XL. Yet this reliably Democratic middle-class constituency is also being thrown under the anti-Keystone bus.

The least attractive utility of progressive values by Keystone XL opponents was their attempt to paint the project as Canada and the United States in xenophobic terms.

One Steyer-financed ad warned that China is "counting on the U.S. to approve TransCanada's pipeline to ship oil through America's heartland and out to foreign countries like this." The only basis for this claim was that state-owned Chinese companies have a modest investment in Canada's oil sands. The Washington Post's Fact Checker, Glenn Kessler, awarded the ad four Pinocchios, noting that "it relies on speculation, not facts, to make insinuations and assertions not justified by the reality."

Speaking of the planet, perhaps the only person on it who still hasn't made up his mind about Keystone XL is Obama, though his dithering has recently given way to expressions depressingly reminiscent of

those in the Steyer ad.

"Understand what this project is," he said at a news conference in Myanmar last week. "It is providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, and it's through our land down to the Gulf [Coast], where it will be sold everywhere else." Their oil. Our land.

Yet his own State Department's exhaustive review of the project found that re-exports of the oil, either as crude or in refined form, were unlikely.

Hypocrisy and rhetorical flimflam are not the only guilty parties in the Keystone XL battle. Keystone XL proponents have undoubtedly tapped corporate coffers to fund their share of exaggerations about the project's benefits. And if course climate change is real and must be addressed.

But in this case progressives are not only being intellectually dishonest and traducing their values, they're doing so pointlessly. This end doesn't justify these means.

Far from being "game over" for the planet, Keystone XL would not boost greenhouse gas emissions significantly, according to State Department experts. With or without Keystone XL, Canada's oil sands will still be turned into crude oil and shipped, often by rail, to markets in the United States and elsewhere. The environmental movement's energies — not to mention Steyer's millions — would be far better spent elsewhere.

In their tendentious effort to deny these realities, progressives risk violating yet another cherished principle that, in their view, distinguishes them from the right: that of letting facts and science, not ideology, determine policy.

Campaigning for a symbolic victory over the fossil-fuel industry, they may end up with a pyrrhic one — if any.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

Synagogue attack was personal, not political

was, they understood, malignant Jew hatred at its core, driven by a millennium-old sickness from which Europe would never recover.

The 20th century was to have been the century of reason, of banishing ancient hatreds. But when the Kishinev poison was unleashed with the new century already underway (they had no inkling, of course, of how horrific the century would become), they knew they needed to flee.

At the time, the pogroms were led in 1903, Theodor Herzl, the father of modern political Zionism, evoked Kishinev not as an event, but as a condition. "Kishinev exists wherever ... [Jews'] self-respect is injured and their property despoiled because they are Jews. Let us save those who can still be saved." The Jews, he insisted, needed a state of their own.

He was not the first to say this. When the assassination of Czar Alexander II in 1881 unleashed a similar burst of murderous anti-Jewish violence, an earlier Zionist, Yehuda Leib Pinsker, wrote that "the new century is to be named after Herzl, to the lack of desire for national independence; ... if they do not wish to exist forever in a disgraceful state ... they must become a nation." He, too, argued that there was no choice — the Jews needed to flee Europe.

So flee they did, by the many millions. Most went to America, but some nervously committed Zionists went to Palestine where they hoped to build a nation-state for the Jews. The Italians had Italy, the Poles had Poland and the Germans had Germany. Each had a language, a history, a culture. So, too, did the Jews; what they lacked was a state and the price of their statelessness, they believed, was Kishinev.

The Jewish state was supposed to put a stop to those images. Yes, a tragic and bloody conflict over land erupted, but Jews

later called Israelis — believed the conflict could be resolved. Israel would sign treaties with its Arab neighbors, sometimes giving up land (as with the Sinai Desert in the case of Egypt) and sometimes not (since Jordan essentially required no meaningful territorial concession). When Palestinian nationalism emerged and then became the main Jewish Israeli enemy, Zionist Israelis remained unfazed. This was a conflict over territory, they reasoned; when the Palestinians were ready to live side by side, Israel would cede more land, and the conflict would be over.

The images of Jewish bloodies hacked to death on a blood-soaked synagogal floor were about a hatred too deep to be assuaged by territorial concessions. Those images tell Israelis that although they fled Europe and have built their national home, they are still assailed by the same venomous loathing they had sought to escape.

There is no Jewish Israel where there is nowhere to run. To where would they go?

While Hamas has praised the butchery, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for restraint, urging Jews not to take the law into their own hands. Yet Netanyahu is unlikely to show restraint himself. For if this horror cannot be stopped, the fundamental premise of Zionism and the promises that it bore for the Jewish people — that the butchery was over — will be upended. And no Israeli prime minister can willingly allow that to happen on his or her watch.

Daniel Gordis is senior vice president and Koret distinguished fellow at Shalem College in Jerusalem.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Test all rape-case DNA evidence Newsday

Actress Mariska Hargitay, who plays a New York City sex-crimes detective on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," got it right when she said prosecutors had shown flagrant disrespect to women by routinely failing to follow through on DNA testing in rape cases.

That's maddening. But we're happy to hear that Cyrus R. Vance Jr., Manhattan's district attorney, has set out to repair this ugly lapse with a plan to help prosecutors nationwide do such tests. Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation and other groups will help Vance with the distribution of \$35 million in civil forfeiture assets.

Why a national program? Because no person should be violated and no violator should go free. The testing of rape evidence — hair, blood and other bodily secretions — should be a police staple. ... But lab tests cost \$1,000 each, and authorities in places like Cleveland; Memphis, Tenn.; and Tulsa, Okla., can't always afford them. This is very dangerous.

Look at New York. The city had a backlog of about 17,000 untested files in 2000. Over the next four years, it managed to clear hundreds of them — and that effort led to 49 indictments in Manhattan alone. It has since tested all of the files.

It's crazy for any city to let sex offenders prowl its streets without accountability for their crimes.

Vance's program is crucial. ... If effective, it will give victims their safety matters to all of us. It will tell evildoers they're not home free yet.

End food ingredient surprises (Longmont, Colo.) Times-Call

If your breakfast this morning came out of a box, odds are that "natural and artificial flavors" were part of the experience.

The "natural and artificial" combination has been a part of processed foods so long that many Americans have for years hardly give a second thought to what they're eating. It's as if the word natural, in the consumer's mind, balances the artificial part of the equation. Food makers even focus on the word natural.

But as more Americans pay attention to what they eat, they are beginning to know what those natural and artificial flavors — and other ingredients added as flavor enhancers — are made of. That is, if their bread is made of something more than wheat, oil and salt, they want to know what it is.

Bread is at the center of one recent movement to change what food manufacturers produce and sell. A petition demanded that sandwich-maker Subway eliminate the use of azodicarbonamide in the making of its bread. Azodicarbonamide is a chemical used to make bread more spongy and therefore, longer-lasting. That quality also makes it good for use in yoga mats and shoe soles. So Subway removed the ingredient — although it still might be in the bread that's in your home pantry.

And beverage companies Coke and Pepsi recently removed brominated vegetable oil from their beverages. ... Gatorade, Powerade and fruit-flavored carbonated soft-drinks — because brominated vegetable oil, which keeps citrus flavoring agents from rising to the surface, is patented as a flame retardant.

It's good to have power in the hands of consumers, who can sway manufacturers and distributors ... to change what they put



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Actress Mariska Hargitay, left, hugs rape victim and founder of Natasha's Justice Project Natasha Alexenko during a news conference in which Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. announced that he pledged as much as \$35 million to help eliminate a backlog of untested rape kits nationwide in New York on Nov. 12.

in America's food stream. But that can't happen unless consumers know what's in their food. The long list of ingredients might not fit on the side of a box or can, but it is reasonable for food manufacturers to post complete lists of ingredients online. Then let consumers research and decide for themselves.

But consumers must understand that chemicals are the building blocks of everything from car tires to cake, and multiple syllables do not necessarily equal "bad for you."

And just because a chemical in your food can also be found in a nonfood product doesn't mean that it's bad for the body. Calcium sulfate dihydrate is used in drywall and fertilizer. Better known as gypsum, it's also used to coagulate your tofu.

America's food manufacturers aren't working just to make good food; they are out to make money. So, consumers must be alert to marketing that misleads, but they also must not panic about minute and multisyllabic ingredients that ultimately will have less effect on their health than the fats and sugars they consume.

Don't shun all assisted suicide (Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune

We are hearing more these days about "death with dignity," which is a dignified way of saying it makes sense to breathe our last breath in the most painless and pleasant way possible under the terms we control.

Techniques range from withholding life-sustaining medical intervention to more controversial but increasingly acceptable assisted suicide.

The latter got a lot of publicity recently when 29-year-old Brittany Maynard took her own life rather than suffer the ravages of brain cancer. She had moved to Oregon, one of five states where a doctor can legally prescribe drugs to end life. She did it consciously and with full support of loved ones, whose last memories of Brittany are of a person most comfortable and in most control who simply went to sleep. Brittany wanted to say goodbye on her own terms.

Society continues to struggle with this concept. Only in recent generations have we had the real option. Life in years past ended earlier and with less warning. Medical science lacked the means for preserving life as it can now, a new ability that brings great benefits but new challenges as well.

Too often today sick people and loved ones — and society in general — insist physicians do everything possible to keep an ailing patient alive, when hanging on is bad for all concerned. ...

In such cases, everyone hangs on — for what? Would it not be better if, with everyone's consensus, an earlier decision would be made to peacefully end life at an appropriate moment? ...

We're getting there. States are beginning to consider life-ending legislation that will allow individuals and designated legal decision helpers to make a much better issue of the final moment.

Methane leaks can be plugged (The Dallas Morning News

Natural gas is a cleaner alternative to oil and coal, but it also produces methane, a greenhouse gas that arguably is a greater contributor to climate change than carbon dioxide. While the warming impacts of carbon dioxide build take longer to reverse, methane leaks are more intense and warm the atmosphere 80 times as fast as carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide will heat the planet; methane leaks will heat it faster.

As the nation's biggest gas-producing state, Texas is responsible for about 30 percent of the nation's methane emissions, much of them from leaky pipes and valves along the gas production and storage process.

So far, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has stayed on the sidelines instead of working with the industry and environmentalists to reduce this waste. That's a big mistake. The federal government is expected to produce rules on methane emissions within a few months. It is in the best interests of Texans that the oil and gas industry, environmentalists and regulators beat Washington to the punch in the hopes of influencing federal rules.

Texas doesn't have to look far for examples of forward-thinking state leadership. Colorado this year became the first state to require the oil and gas industry to monitor and fix leaky valves and other points that could allow methane to escape. Wyoming, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and other states with gigantic gas-producing fields — have followed Colorado's example.

In Texas, these simple steps to prevent methane leakage would have the same environmental impact as shuttering 13 coal-fired power plants and would add virtually nothing to the overall price of natural gas, says the Environmental Defense Fund, a market-based environmental group.

As a major oil and gas producer, Texas has an obligation to be part of the solution. Now it must show the will. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should require companies to reduce methane emissions even without new federal legislation.

Don't hide windmills' downside (The Intelligencer/Wheeling (W.Va.) News-Register

It turns out alternative energy companies, supposedly kinder than kind to Mother Nature, have some dirty not-so-little secrets. At least one of them wants to keep it that way.

Americans learned last year that President Barack Obama's administration had given the wind energy industry a break no one else gets. Federal laws intended to protect some birds, such as bald eagles, were not being enforced against the firms.

That led to the Associated Press to inquire how many birds are being killed by the giant, spinning blades connected to wind energy generators.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials were ready to give the AP reports on the matter from wind energy companies. One, PacificCorp of Portland, Ore., has filed a lawsuit to block release of the information.

The AP already knows of dozens of eagle deaths caused by wind farms. PacificCorp operates more than a dozen wind farms in Wyoming and at least two other states. AP reporters know that at two 20 dead eagles have been found on company property in Wyoming. If wind industry such a wonderful idea, why is the firm so set on keeping bird kills a secret?

There is no acceptable reason for it to do so. The federal judge involved in the case should reject PacificCorp's lawsuit and order that the information sought by the AP be released.

Wasted time spent on pennies (Concord (N.H.) Monitor

Americans have a complicated relationship with the penny. On one hand, people don't have much use for pennies and are happy to leave them in those ubiquitous plastic "need a penny" trays at convenience stores. But polls show that a majority of Americans can't bear the idea of permanently getting rid of the inspiration behind such a saying as "You never thought" and "A penny saved is a penny earned."

The nostalgia is understandable (remember penny candy!), but the fact is that this lovable loss of a coin is costing the U.S. a fortune.

So far this year, the U.S. Mint has produced 6.8 billion pennies at a cost of 1.66 cents per coin (for a total of about \$113 million). That's right: The penny costs more to make than it's actually worth.

Politicians of all stripes like to talk about government waste, and waste doesn't get much more obvious than that. If you're a politician, you want your voters to know to make than it's worth, you will be closing up shop before you make the first lease payment on the factory. But the U.S. Mint just keeps on cranking out pennies whenever banks start running short on change. And why do banks run short on change? Because, according to The Wall Street Journal, about 21 percent of pennies made since 2000 have fallen out of circulation. You don't need a Secret Service investigation to get to the bottom of the coins' disappearance: People treat pennies like heavy pocket lint. ...

That said, pennies aren't the only problem with the U.S. Mint. At a cost of \$0.09 cents per coin, nickels aren't exactly the epitome of smart money. ...

If the U.S. is nervous about what it would mean to the economy as a whole if the penny was eradicated, it can look to Canada for guidance. America's neighbor to the north started phasing out pennies last year and so far everything has gone smoothly. ...

The time has come for America to say goodbye to the penny and put the nickel on notice. Yes, the going rate for the thoughts of another would go from one cent to a dime, but that seems to be a small price to pay for a more sensible and cost-efficient approach to American currency.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ACC parity obscuring breakout performers

With No. 1 FSU hogging headlines, some standouts being overlooked

BY WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — There are stars in the Atlantic Coast Conference who don't wear garnet and gold if you know where to look.

The thing is, nobody's looking. Not hard anyway.

The ACC's top running back toils in relative obscurity, his muscular brilliance overshadowed by his team's inability to get out of its own way: Pittsburgh's James Conner.

The league's most dynamic quarterback not named Jameis Winston spends his Saturdays trying to overcome the sins of a defense that can't stop anybody: North Carolina's Marquise Williams.

The nation's leading interceptor is a sophomore who was virtually unknown two months ago and plays for a school obsessed with the head coach's offensive genius: Louisville's Gerod Holliman.

And the conference's leading tackler is an anonymous everyman who has helped engineer one of college football's most unlikely success stories: Duke's David Helton.

It's not hard to figure out why they remain unknown. The ACC technically consists of two divisions on paper but is really two separate leagues at the moment: No. 1 Florida State and everybody else.

The parity that has taken over the new-look 14-team conference has cultivated some interesting storylines but hardly any sizzle for the impact players who are part of



ROBERT WILLET, THE NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Pittsburgh's James Conner is chasing Heisman Trophy winner and NFL Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett's school record of 22 scores, set in 1976.

the muddled middle.

Pitt's Conner is tracking down the likes of Tony Dorsett in the school record books. The sophomore running back needs one touchdown over the final two weeks to equal the Heisman Trophy winner and Hall of Famer's school mark of 22 scores set in 1976.

That's the year the Panthers won the national title and Dorsett clutched the Heisman Trophy.

Yet Conner won't find himself anywhere near New York City when the award for the

nation's top player is announced in December, even though the 250-pound converted defensive end is third in the country with 1,562 yards rushing and perhaps first in bruises caused.

"It would be nice, but it is what it is," Conner said.

Conner instead will likely see Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon be among the Heisman finalists after Gordon put up an FBS-record 408 yards last week against Nebraska. Conner joked Gordon's remarkable day looked "like a typo," though the same could be said

'Teams in the SEC and the Big Ten, they get a lot of hype and they deserve it. The ACC has great players, too.'

James Conner
Pittsburgh running back

about Conner, who already has three 200-yard games this season.

"Our numbers are kind of similar," Conner said.

Everywhere except the win/loss column. While Gordon and the 14th-ranked Badgers are 8-2 and steaming toward a major bowl, Conner and the Panthers (4-6) need to beat Syracuse and Miami to become bowl eligible.

"I'll just continue to try and leave it out on the field," Conner said with a shrug.

It's a refrain echoed by Conner's ACC brethren, guys whose highlight-reel plays are often left on the cutting room floor due in part to the inability for any program outside of Tallahassee to gain national traction.

Williams is putting up Winston-esque numbers for the Tar Heels (5-5), ranking second in passing yards and total offense and seventh in yards rushing. He's the main reason the embattled program is within a win of bowl eligibility and yet the junior underdogs as long as Winston is around he's simply another face in the crowd.

"It's just the name of the game," Williams said. "Maybe I need to do more than what I'm doing, get my name on the map. Hey, I'm up for the challenge."

Williams is hardly alone in that category. "Teams in the SEC and the Big Ten, they get a lot of hype and they deserve it," Conner said. "The ACC has great players, too."

Now comes the hard part: winning enough games for people to take notice.

Hole: Badgers' offense running on all cylinders behind RB Gordon



MORRY GASH/AP

FROM BACK PAGE

That's quite the astounding figure in and of itself, to overpower front sevens enough to the point where a line can confidently say it helped the tailback gain 7 yards on a carry.

"We got him to the unblocked lineman or unblocked defender, which is 7 yards. The next 38 are on Melvin," Havenstein said. "Those numbers that Melvin puts up are definitely because of Melvin."

But the talk was much different in Week 2.

As improbable as it now sounds, Gordon gained just 38 yards on 17 carries against Western Illinois on Sept. 6. Making matters more mystifying was that Western Illinois is a lower-division school. Its defense stacked the box to stuff Gordon.

The next week, Gordon ran for 253 yards and five touchdowns on just 13 carries against Bowling Green. He has rushed for at least 122 yards in each game since.

"Just those guys have been attacking. I don't know what happened in (the Western Illinois game)," Gordon said. "The whole offense, we probably just weren't clicking or something, but since then those guys have really got it together and really focused and

they've been working hard ... They make it easy on me."

The offense, admittedly, has been a work in progress. Early on, the Badgers were still going with Tanner McEvoy as their full-time starting quarterback.

Joel Stave has reclaimed the job, but Wisconsin has settled comfortably into a platoon at the position with McEvoy entering as a change-of-pace running threat.

Havenstein said the front five from week to week has focused on fundamentals and technique, "however much of that is a boring answer, it's kind of the truth."

They have improved each week, much like the rest of the team, including the defense and special teams.

"They come to work every single day and probably what most of us would envision in our minds is a Wisconsin offensive lineman being a tough, rugged kid," coach Gary Andersen said. "Also their care factor, not to just run the ball well but to play well and be part of the Wisconsin offensive line tradition means an awful lot to those kids."

Their biggest reward might be an honor they would never personally receive — if Gordon were to win the Heisman.

Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon celebrates after beating Nebraska 59-24 on Saturday in Madison, Wis. Gordon rushed for a major college-record 408 yards and four touchdowns in the game.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



TED RICHARDSON/AP

East Carolina's Justin Hardy catches a touchdown pass ahead of Connecticut's Jhavan Williams on Oct. 23 in Greenville, N.C. Hardy needs just four catches to become the career receptions leader in the FBS.

Pirates' Hardy on verge of all-time catch record

By AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

Justin Hardy is close to completing a remarkable climb at East Carolina: from walk-on receiver to the all-time receptions leader in college football's Bowl Subdivision.

The fifth-year senior needs four catches — less than half his weekly average — to set the record Saturday against Tulane.

"I really don't think about it," he said. "The more I think about it, the more I'd probably be like, 'Well, I've got to do this, I've got to do that.' I can't get away from the game."

The 6-foot, 188-pound Hardy entered the year needing 84 catches to break the record of 349 set by Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles in 2011, well within reach considering he had 88 catches as a sophomore and 114 as a junior.

Hardy, who may not be the most athletic player on the field, has a knack for getting open. He's also benefited from playing in a pass-heavy attack.

He has had four games with at least 10 catches, including his 15-catch, 188-yard effort last week at Cincinnati. He has 80 catches for 1,002 yards and seven touchdowns for the Pirates (6-3, 3-2 American Athletic Conference), ranking third nationally in receptions per game (8.9) and eighth in average yards receiving (11.3).

He's been a vital part of East Carolina's offense, so much so that normally good-natured

By the numbers

349

Record for career receptions in the FBS, held by Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles.

4

Number of receptions East Carolina's Justin Hardy needs to overtake Broyles.

114

Number of receptions Hardy had as a junior. He has 80 this season.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

coach Ruffin McNeill has been vocal with his displeasure that Hardy wasn't a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award presented to the nation's top receiver. AAC Commissioner Mike Aresco weighed in Wednesday, too, issuing a statement saying Hardy deserved to be included and that "anyone who has seen Justin play this year would have to conclude that he is among the best receivers in the nation."

No one has to sell Tulane coach Curtis Johnson on Hardy's potential. The receiver had career highs of 17 catches and 230 yards receiving in last year's meeting.

"I know the NFL scouts are very high on him," Johnson said in a statement provided by the school. "He's a terrific receiver."

Hardy was an overlooked recruit with one Division II scholarship offer from Fayetteville

State out of West Craven High, a school that runs the spread offense about 25 miles southeast of the ECU campus in Vanceboro.

He ended up as a preferred walk-on at East Carolina, which needed receivers once McNeill took over in January 2010 and installed the spread. He worked on the scout team that first year, earned a scholarship the following season and has been in a leading role ever since.

Hardy has generally deflected questions this season about the record chase.

He said he'll just focus on doing his job Saturday, then move on with a record he'll savor more after the season.

"I probably won't even think about it," he said. "Once game-time starts, it's like I'm locked in. I don't hear anything else outside of what I'm doing."

Saturday: Calm before the storm

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

We interrupt this exciting college football season, the race for the first playoff and the Heisman Trophy chase, to bring you this Saturday.

By chance and by plan, this weekend's college football schedule does not have much to get excited about.

Most of the Southeastern Conference is taking its November break, playing a push-over to prepare for a rivalry game (No. 2 Alabama vs. Western Carolina and No. 15 Auburn vs. Samford) or taking the week off altogether.

In other cases the schedule just didn't pan out. No. 4 Mississippi State against Vanderbilt. Yuck. No. 3 Oregon against Colorado. Pass. No. 6 Baylor against Oklahoma State. Yawn. No. 7 Ohio State against Indiana. Ugh.

Out of the top seven teams in the latest College Football Playoff rankings only one is favored by fewer than 20 points: No. 1 Florida State is minus-19½ at home against Boston College.

There's some action in the Pac-12 South keeping an eye on: No. 24 Southern California is at No. 11 UCLA and No. 15 Arizona visits No. 20 Utah. All of those teams plus Arizona State are still alive to win one of the best divisions in the country.

Over in the Big Ten West, Minnesota vs. No. 21 Nebraska and No. 14 Wisconsin at Iowa will help determine a close division race, but other than watching what Badgers record-breaking star Melvin Gordon does for an encore, that's not exactly must-see TV.

If you wanted to have a fall wedding and not tick off your college football fan friends and relatives, this would be the week to do it.

"In the fall I may have a few appointments on the weekend,

typically no wedding," said wedding planner Christina Sloan, who runs Christina Sloan Events in Birmingham, Ala. "This weekend I have one on Thursday, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. I've had inquiries for more, I just can't take all of them on."

It is the kind of weekend where ESPN's "College GameDay" goes to Harvard-Yale. The Crimson and the Bulldogs are playing with the Ivy League title at stake for both teams for the first time since 2007. Pretty cool, but if GameDay is in Cambridge, Mass., on the second-to-last weekend of November it's probably a slow Saturday around the country.

One of the other candidates for GameDay this week was a trip to Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, where Lehigh and Lafayette play college football's oldest rivalry for the 150th time.

'This weekend I have one on Thursday, one on Saturday and one on Sunday.'

Christina Sloan
Wedding planner commenting on the unusually busy fall weekend

Call it the Calm-Before-the-Storm Saturday. Thanksgiving weekend is packed with rivalry games and huge matchups, starting Thanksgiving night with No. 5 TCU facing Texas.

The next weekend is Championship Weekend, featuring all the FBS conference title games and culminating with the selection of the teams to play in the first College Football Playoff. Like those SEC teams, fans can use this weekend to recharge for the stretch drive.

Of course, just because the schedule is lacking highly ranked teams playing big games doesn't mean something dramatic can't happen. Maybe one of those double-digit underdogs can pull an upset and shake things up.

If that happens, Sloan has her clients covered with a tailgate station and televisions to watch the games.

"Even though it's a slow weekend," she said, "they still make sure they get their football in."



VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

Running back T.J. Yeldon and Alabama will have a "pushover" game this week, facing Western Carolina in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

NBA

Always crummy in Philadelphia

Winless 76ers again shuffling towards NBA futility mark

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ellen DeGeneres used her monologue on Wednesday's show to speak right to the heart of Philadelphia 76ers fans.

"I want to be a glow where it's gloomy," she said.

Around the NBA, no city is gloomier these days than Philadelphia. Turns out, she said, the Sixers are having a bad season.

And where did they get that name?

"I believe they're named after the 76 gas stations," she said.

Aim shot!

And just like most of the 76ers' shots at the rim, it was a clunker. She should have tried this one — "I believe they're named after the number of games they'll lose this season."

Of course, the Sixers would have to roll into quite the hot streak to win six games this season, so perhaps that one-liner aims a bit high for the worst franchise in sports this side of the Oakland Raiders.

The 76ers are the Hackey Sack of the NBA. Watch as Larry Brown kicks an insult to Eric Bledsoe who punts it to Fred Carter who may as well just let it drop to the court and let the other 31 NBA teams stomp and romp all over it.

Yes, the 76ers were supposed to be bad — the only one smiling after this 11-1 start is team president and tank mastermind Sam Hinkie — but this bad?

Using old school stats or modern analytics, the Sixers are the worst of the worst by any set of numbers.

The 76ers are only seven defeats from tying the 2009-10 Nets for the worst start in NBA history.

They have five more straight losses ahead to top the 1972-73 team for worst start (0-15) in Sixers' history and are the No. 1 contenders to wrest away the crown from those Sixers (9-73) as the worst 82-game season team in NBA history.

Keep going?

The Sixers are 15 straight losses away from matching an NBA record of 26 straight in a season held by ... set by ... c'mon, the answer to that is your tongue — yes! The 2013-14 Philadelphia 76ers.

The Sixers have done so much deep-hole drilling on second-year coach Brett Brown's record, he'd need a Phil Jackson/Michael Jordan run to climb out and see .500 daylight.

The 76ers have sold fans on the "The 2013-14 Philadelphia 76ers." But all they've built is a D-League

By the numbers

5 Consecutive losses the Philadelphia 76ers are away from tying the 1972-73 Sixers for worst start in franchise history (0-15).

7 Consecutive losses Philadelphia needs to tie the 2009-10 Nets for the worst start in NBA history.

15 Consecutive losses the 76ers are away from matching an NBA-record 26 straight losses, set by last season's 76ers squad.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

team at NBA prices.

Around Philly, rebuilding has a different nickname: Tankphilia.

Larry Brown, the vagabond coach who led the Sixers to the 2001 NBA finals, said the last two seasons have "made me sick to my stomach."

"Can you imagine telling Alan Iverson that this is a rebuilding season so we're going to be bad on purpose?" he said last month.

In a column for Derek Jeter's sports website, The Players' Tribune, Carter-Williams wrote that he escaped from the grind by watching "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" with his stepfather.

DeGeneres read the column, thanked MCW for watching, and said, "I'm sorry you're having a tough season." She said everyone on the Ellen team was rooting for him — and brought out characters like Giggles the Clown, Nick the Gardener, and Dave the Steaguard.

Meanwhile, Hinkie had to wonder if he could sign them to 10-day contracts.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
Toronto	4	6	40%
Boston	4	6	40%
Brooklyn	3	7	30%
New York	3	7	30%
Philadelphia	0	9	0%

Southeast Division			
Washington	7	3	70%
Orlando	5	5	50%
Atlanta	5	5	50%
Charlotte	4	6	40%

Central Division			
Chicago	4	7	33%
Milwaukee	5	6	45%
Cleveland	5	6	45%
Indiana	5	7	41%
Detroit	3	9	25%

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
Memphis	10	2	83%
Utah	9	3	75%
Houston	9	3	75%
San Antonio	9	3	75%
New Orleans	0	9	0%

Northwest Division			
Portland	5	7	41%
Utah	5	7	41%
Denver	3	9	25%
Minnesota	3	7	30%
Oklahoma City	10	2	83%

Pacific Division			
Golden State	8	2	80%
L.A. Clippers	7	3	70%
Phoenix	7	3	70%
L.A. Lakers	6	3	66%

Tuesday's games			
L.A. Lakers 114, Atlanta 109			
Milwaukee 117, New York 113			
Utah 98, Oklahoma City 81			
New Orleans 106, Sacramento 100			

Wednesday's games			
Boston 101, Philadelphia 90			
Dallas 105, Washington 102			
A.C. Clippers 114, Orlando 90			
Indiana 88, Charlotte 86			
San Antonio 92, Cleveland 90			
Toronto 96, Memphis 92			
Phoenix 88, Detroit 88			
Minnesota 115, New York 99			
Denver 107, Oklahoma City 100			
L.A. Lakers 83, Houston 92			

Thursday's games			
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta			
Chicago at Sacramento			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Atlanta at Charlotte			
Detroit at Atlanta			
Washington at Toronto			
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City			
Cleveland at Memphis			
San Antonio at Minnesota			
Boston at Philadelphia			
L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
New Orleans at Denver			
Utah at Golden State			
Chicago at Portland			

Friday's games			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Atlanta at Charlotte			
Detroit at Atlanta			
Washington at Toronto			
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City			
Cleveland at Memphis			
San Antonio at Minnesota			
Boston at Philadelphia			
L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
New Orleans at Denver			
Utah at Golden State			
Chicago at Portland			

Saturday's games			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Atlanta at Charlotte			
Detroit at Atlanta			
Washington at Toronto			
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City			
Cleveland at Memphis			
San Antonio at Minnesota			
Boston at Philadelphia			
L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
New Orleans at Denver			
Utah at Golden State			
Chicago at Portland			

Sunday's games			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Atlanta at Charlotte			
Detroit at Atlanta			
Washington at Toronto			
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City			
Cleveland at Memphis			
San Antonio at Minnesota			
Boston at Philadelphia			
L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
New Orleans at Denver			
Utah at Golden State			
Chicago at Portland			

Monday's games			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Atlanta at Charlotte			
Detroit at Atlanta			
Washington at Toronto			
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City			
Cleveland at Memphis			
San Antonio at Minnesota			
Boston at Philadelphia			
L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
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Chicago at Portland			

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L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
New Orleans at Denver			
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Chicago at Portland			

Wednesday's games			
Phoenix at Philadelphia			
Atlanta at Charlotte			
Detroit at Atlanta			
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L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
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San Antonio at Minnesota			
Boston at Philadelphia			
L.A. Lakers at Dallas			
New Orleans at Denver			
Utah at Golden State			
Chicago at Portland			

Raptors 96, Grizzlies 92

MEMPHIS — Prince 6-8 3-4 15, Randolph 7-18 4-14 8, Gasol 8-16 1-6 22, Conley 7-17 4-14 18, Pendergast 2-6 2-6 12, Carter 3-11 0-7, Lucas 0-1 0-0 4, Adams 1-2 0-0 3, Stokes 1-1 2-4, Totals 55-94 25-56 92.

TORONTO — Ross 16-21 1-1 16, A.J. Johnson 4-6 2-2 8, DeRozan 10-22 1-2, Vasquez 1-5 0-0 3, Patterson 2-4 2-2 7, Williams 4-8 3-3 13, Hamilton 0-1 0-0 0, Fields 0-0 0-0, Hayes 0-0 0-0, Totals 38-56 96.

Memphis 20 28 27 17-92
Toronto 22 27 27 26-96

Three-point Goals—Memphis 3
10 (Conley 1, Adams 1, Carter 1, Vasquez 1, Hamilton 1, Patterson 1, Williams 2, Lowry 2, Hamilton 1, Vasquez 1, DeRozan 1, A.J. Johnson 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 61 (Randolph 18), Toronto 38 (A.J. Johnson 9, Assists—Memphis 16 (Conley 5), Toronto 24 (Lowry 7). Total Fouls—Memphis 16, Toronto 20. A—19,800 (19,800).

Suns 86, Pistons 86

PHOENIX — Marc Morris 2-7 0-0 5, Marc Morris 5-8 0-0 10, Plumlee 1-3 0-0 2, Bledsoe 6-11 6-18, G.D. George 1-11 0-12, Len 3-3 0-0 6, Tucker 6-8 2-2 16, Thomas 1-9 2-5, Green 1-3 10-12, Warren 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 37-103 13-86.

DETROIT — Smith 2-11 3-5, Monroe 7-14 5-18, Drummond 2-0 2-4, Jennings 1-4 0-5, Caldwell 1-0 0-0 2, Wiggins 1-2 0-0 2, Butler 2-7 0-0 5, Dinwiddie 0-3 2-2 4, Augmon 5-5 2-6 16, Morris 1-1 0-0 7, Singler 2-3 0-0 5, Totals 33-67 13-86.

Phoenix 21 21 21 23-86
Pistons 21 21 21 23-86

Three-point Goals—Phoenix 4 (Tucker 2, Thomas 1, Marc Morris 1, Wiggins 1, Caldwell 1, Wiggins 1, 2, Green 0-3), Detroit 7 (Caldwell 1, Hamilton 1, Jennings 1, Butler 1, Jennings 1-9, Dinwiddie 0-2), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Phoenix 35 (Plumlee 10), Detroit 32 (Drummond 13), Assists—Phoenix 21 (Caldwell 6, G.D. George 4), Detroit 21 (Jennings 7). Total Fouls—Phoenix 22, Detroit 16. Technicals—Marc Morris, Caldwell, George, Monroe. A—10,686 (22,076).

Spurs 92, Cavaliers 90

SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 4-11 4-16 22, Duncan 7-17 5-7 19, Diaw 8-14 2-19, Parker 1-6 5-8 12, Ginobili 3-7 0-0 4, 5-12 10, Ginobili 3-7 0-0 2, Barnes 3-4 0-0 6, Royce 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 34-83 9-15.

CLEVELAND — James 6-17 1-15, Love 4-12 2-10, Varejao 11-16 1-3 23, Irving 7-14 2-10 20, Cleveland 1-1 0-0 2, Wiggins 2-6, Thompson 3-5 0-0 6, Harris 2-5 0-5, Pacer 0-2 0-0 2, Totals 38-93 9-15.

San Antonio 23 21 28 20-92
Cleveland 23 21 28 20-90

Three-point Goals—San Antonio 5-16 (Green 2-4, Joseph 1-1, Diaw 1-2, Daye 1-1, Parker 1-1, Ginobili 0-4), Leonard 0-4, Cleveland 7-18 (Irving 3-4, James 2-3, Harris 1-3, Marion 1-1, Varejao 1-1, Wiggins 0-1, Love 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 51 (Duncan, Leonard 12, Ginobili 12, Diaw 12, Parker 11), Assists—San Antonio 26 (Diaw 7), Cleveland 20, Cleveland 21. A—20,562 (20,562).

Mavericks 105, Wizards 102

DALLAS — Parsons 4-12 0-11, Nowitzki 4-12 2-13, Chandler 2-4 1-1 5, Nelson 1-1 0-0 2, Crawford 1-2 0-0 2, Wright 2-14, Jefferson 2-0 0-0, Smith 0-1 1-2, 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 34-82 9-15.

WASHINGTON — Pierce 6-12 2-7, Netemir 1-2 0-0 2, Porter 2-4 0-0 2, Crowder 5-17 1-12, Temple 0-3 2-2 2, Humphries 1-1 0-0 2, Porter 2-4 0-0 2, Totals 34-82 9-15.

Washington 29 24 28 29-102
Mavericks 29 24 28 29-105

Three-point Goals—Dallas 12 (Nowitzki 3-4, Parsons 3-8, Ellis 2-4, Crowder 1-2, Aminu 1-2, Bare 1-3, Nelson 1-1, Jefferson 1-2, Wright 1-3, Jefferson 1-2-2-5, Parsons 1-2-2-5, Crowder 1-2-2-5, Totals 34-82 9-15).

WASHINGTON — Pierce 6-12 2-7, Netemir 1-2 0-0 2, Porter 2-4 0-0 2, Crowder 5-17 1-12, Temple 0-3 2-2 2, Humphries 1-1 0-0 2, Porter 2-4 0-0 2, Totals 34-82 9-15.

Washington 29 24 28 29-102
Mavericks 29 24 28 29-105

Three-point Goals—Dallas 12 (Nowitzki 3-4, Parsons 3-8, Ellis 2-4, Crowder 1-2, Aminu 1-2, Bare 1-3, Nelson 1-1, Jefferson 1-2, Wright 1-3, Jefferson 1-2-2-5, Parsons 1-2-2-5, Crowder 1-2-2-5, Totals 34-82 9-15).

WASHINGTON — Pierce 6-12 2-7, Netemir 1-2 0-0 2, Porter 2-4 0-0 2, Crowder 5-17 1-12, Temple 0-3 2-2 2, Humphries 1-1 0-0 2, Porter 2-4 0-0 2, Totals 34-82 9-15.

NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



TONY DEJAK/AP

The Cavaliers' LeBron James drives against the Spurs' Kawhi Leonard during the third quarter on Wednesday in Cleveland. San Antonio won 92-90 when James turned the ball over in the final seconds.

NBA roundup

James' TO lets Spurs escape

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Tim Duncan and Boris Diaw scored 19 points apiece and the San Antonio Spurs beat Cleveland for the 10th straight time — and got the best of LeBron James again — with a 92-90 win over the Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

Manu Ginobili scored on a layup with 18 seconds left, made a free throw with 9.1 to go and harassed James into a turnover with 1.9 seconds remaining for the defending NBA champions. It was the first meeting between the Spurs and James since last June, when the Cavaliers overpowered the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals.

Anderson Varejao scored 23 points, Kyrie Irving added 20 and James 15 for the Cavs, who fell to 5-5. James was free 6-for-17 from the field and Kevin Love went 4-for-12. After Ginobili missed his free throw, James tried to rush the ball up the floor for a possible game-tying basket but lost control near mid-court.

Varejao scored nine points in a 3-minute stretch to give Cleveland an 86-85 lead. But Duncan scored inside and fed Ginobili underneath for a bucket with 17.7 seconds left to put the Spurs up 91-88.

Irving's two free throws got the Cavs within 91-90.

Bucks 122, Nets 118 (3OT): The Milwaukee Bucks overcame Brandon Knight's shocking missed layup at the end of the first overtime to outlast the Nets in coach Jason Kidd's return to Brooklyn.

Knight made the tying three-pointer in the second overtime and the clutching free throws with 5.6 seconds to go in the third, allowing the Bucks to leave with a victory that he should've provided much sooner.

Rookie Jabari Parker scored a season-high 23 points, O.J. Mayo added 21, and Knight and Giannis Antetokounmpo each had 18 for the Bucks, who won their third straight.

Raptors 96, Grizzlies 92: DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points, Terrence Ross had 14 of his 16 in the fourth quarter and host Toronto beat Memphis, which came in with the NBA's best record but had their four-game winning streak stopped.

Lakers 98, Rockets 92: Kobe Bryant had 29 points, Wesley Johnson made key free throws down the stretch and visiting Los Angeles took advantage of Dwight Howard's absence to claim their second straight win following a 1-9 start.

Suns 88, Pistons 86: Eric Blados scored 18 points, including the winning basket with 28.7 seconds to play, to lift visiting Phoenix.

Mavericks 105, Wizards 102: At Washington, Dirk Nowitzki limped off to the locker room after a fourth-quarter fall, then returned to make a key three-pointer, and Monta Ellis scored 24 of his 34 points in the first half to lead Dallas to its fifth straight win.

Washington lost at home for the first time this season, despite Bradley Beal's first action following left wrist surgery.

Nuggets 107, Thunder 100: Wilson Chandler had 21 points, including a key three-pointer late in the game, and Timofey Mozgov finished with a season-high 17 to lift host Denver over Oklahoma City. Ty Lawson added 15 points and 15 assists for the Nuggets, who returned home following a 2-1 trip that included a win over LeBron James and the Cavaliers.

Serge Ibaka had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Oklahoma City, with reigning NBA MVP Kevin Durant (broken right foot) and All-Star guard Russell Westbrook (broken right hand) on the bench in suits. The Thunder have dropped four straight.

Celtics 101, 76ers 90: Brandon Bass scored 23 points, Jared Sullinger added 22 and visiting Boston sent Philadelphia to its 11th straight loss to start the season.

Clippers 114, Magic 90: Jamal Crawford had 22 point, and Chris Paul added 16 points and nine assists as visiting Los Angeles beat Orlando.

Blake Griffin scored 20 points, and Jordan Farmar and Matt Barnes each had 13 as the Clippers opened a seven-game East Coast trip with an easy victory.

Pacers 88, Hornets 86: Solomon Hill tipped in a pass by Rodney Stuckey as time expired, and host Indiana overcame an early 18-point deficit to beat Charlotte.

Hill finished with six points. Roy Hibbert had 18 points and 11 rebounds as the Pacers spoiled Lance Stephenson's first trip back to Indianapolis since signing with Charlotte in July.

Stephenson had 10 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

Timberwolves 115, Knicks 99: Kevin Martin shook off an illness to score 37 points, and host Minnesota, missing three starters, beat New York.

Martin tied a career high with seven three-pointers and Shabazz Muhammad had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Wolves, who were missing Ricky Rubio, Thaddeus Young and Nikola Pekovic. Rubio and Pekovic were out because of injuries and Young was away because of the death of his mother.

Carmelo Anthony had 20 points and Amare Stoudemire added 19 for the Knicks.

Top 25 roundup

Creighton rallies to upset Oklahoma

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Maybe Creighton isn't going to be so bad without Doug McDermott after all.

The Bluejays came back from an 18-point deficit in the second half to upset 18th-ranked Oklahoma 65-63 on Wednesday night. The victory set off a court-storming by the student section and kept the good times rolling for the sell-out crowd of 17,393 that continues to come to CenturyLink Center in droves even after the departure of the program's biggest star.

"It gives us a lot of confidence," said point guard Austin Chatman, the Bluejays' only returning starter. "Coming into the season we had a lot of questions — how good would we be and things like that. I think this answered a lot of questions of the doubters."

The Sooners, who returned their top three scorers from a 23-win team, for a half looked like they would overpower a Creighton team that lost McDermott, its 2014 national player of the year, and three other seniors.

Oklahoma led 35-24 at halftime after Creighton came out shooting 24 percent (6-for-25). The Bluejays' turnaround was sudden. Isaiah Zierden and 12 freshman hit three-pointers to ignite the 24-4 run that swung the game.

2. Arizona 71, Cal-Irvine 54:

Scoreboard

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST	
Albany (NY) 65, NJIT 48	
Army 74, St. Francis (NY) 71	
Binghamton 82, Hartwick 51	
Desales 59, Penn St.-Wilkes-Barre 46	
Hampton 63, Dartmouth 48	
Holy Cross 80, Brown 65	
Marist 63, Princeton 46	
Lehigh 68, William Paterson 59	
Loyola (Md.) 45, UMBC 38	
Mid.-Eastern Shore 53, Mount St. Mary's 44	
MIDWEST	
41 Nyack 64, Felician 62	
61 Penn St. Behrend 74, Thiel 63	
24 Saint Conn. 81, Concordia (N.Y.) 65	
65 Richard Stockton 76, Farmingdale 47	
50 Virginia Tech 78, Coastal Carolina 59	
31 Shippensburg 80, Wilmington (Del.) 75	
SOUTH	
1 Siena 73, St. Bonaventure 70	
2 St. John's 66, LIU Brooklyn 53	
30 North Carolina 77, Vermont 41	
41 Alderson-Brookdale 83, Virginia Union 62	
62 Anderson (SC) 83, Young Harris 82	
82 Barton 68, Belmont Abbey 64	
41 James Madison 82, Longwood 60	
63 Boston U. 71, Norfolk St. 63	
31 Bryan 88, Bluefield 74	
41 Carson-Newman 73, Tusculum 68	
62 Centre 74, Transylvania 73	
74 Virginia Gulf Coast 78, Ohio 62	
62 Furman 84, Appalachian St. 65	
62 Virginia Tech 78, Coastal Carolina 59	
31 Guilford 76, Greensboro 65	
62 Indiana-Southwest 81, Kentucky 74	
74 James Madison 82, Longwood 60	
63 King (Tenn.) 82, North Greenville 62	
62 Lafayette 105, Berry 91	
1 Limestone 69, Erskine 63	
62 Mercer 74, Kennesaw St. 66	
62 Middle Tennessee 77, Wesleyan 71	
1 Mount Olive 86, Pfeiffer 58	
8 N. Kentucky 68, NC A&T 55	
5 Newberry 90, Collier 88	
62 North Carolina 77, Kentucky Wesleyan 72	
72 Samford 68, Austin Peay 73	
62 Tennessee Tech 79, Lehigh-McKee 78	
72 The Citadel 71, Toccoa Falls 58	
62 NC Asheville 87, Johnson & Wales (N.H.) 86	
1 Union (Tenn.) 96, Rust 74	
62 Carmelo Anthony had 20 points and Amare Stoudemire added 19 for the Knicks.	
MIDWEST	
Augustana (SD) 95, Dakota St. 51	

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 19 points and the host Wildcats used a stifling defense in a decisive second-half run to top Cal-Irvine.

Arizona (3-0) trailed from late in the first half until their defense intensified in a 15-0 run midway through the second half. The Antecators (2-1) went six minutes without a point and committed five turnovers during the outburst.

Arizona's best offense was at the foul line, where the Wildcats made 29 of 34, 11 of 13 by Hollis-Jefferson.

No. 3 Wisconsin 84, Green Bay 60: At Madison, Wis., Nigel Hayes scored a career-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Badgers.

Hayes, who averaged less than eight points and three rebounds a game as a freshman, has now reached double digits in rebounds in all three games this season.

Frank Kaminsky added 20 points and 15 rebounds for the Badgers (3-0).

No. 13 Gonzaga 94, Saint Joseph's 42: At Spokane, Wash., Gary Bell Jr. scored 18 points as Gonzaga rolled in the NIT Season Tip-Off.

Josh Perkins added 13 points and Byron Wesley 12 for Gonzaga (3-0), which has yet to surrender more than 58 points in a game this season.

Bethel (Minn.) 66, Martin Luther 42
Bowling Green 70, Wright St. 55
Carleton (Neb.) 84, Bethany Lutheran 53
Cincinnati 69, Morehead St. 61
Cleveland St. 60, Jacksonville St. 46
Concordia (Mich.) 76, Lawrence Tech 67

67 Cornerstone 75, Lourdes 67
Creighton 85, Oklahoma 63
Eastern Mich. 78, Lander 54
Evansville 69, Miami (Ohio) 50
Hawke 72, Wis.-Stevens 64
Hastings 63, Doane 62

62 IUPUI 70, Milwaukee 68
Madonna 96, Marquette 78
Miami 65, Oklahoma 63
Minn.-Crookston 74, Jamestown 65
Missouri 87, Oral Roberts 64
Missouri St. 87, SW 39
Northwestern St. (SD) 93, Minnesota State 88

88 OT Northwestern Ohio 65, Michigan-Dearborn 61
Notre Dame 104, Coppin St. 67
North Dakota 63, Marquette 51
Robert Morris 68, Bradley 61

69 UMKC 90, Missouri S&T 69
Upper Iowa 93, Waldorf 67
Valparaiso 91, Ind.-South Bend 55
Viterbo 81, Wis.-Stout 65
W. Michigan 82, Oakland 71

62 Wisconsin 84, Green Bay 60
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 83, Wake Forest 53
North Texas 62, Delaware St. 55
Rice 84, Prairie View 51
Texas A&M-Kingsville 76, St. Mary's (Calif.) 71

62 Texas 65, Lamar 55
Texas St. 45, Abilene Christian 39
FAR WEST
BYU 100, Colorado Christian 47
Arizona 71, UC Irvine 54

62 Air Force 101, St. Virginia 48
62 Northridge 72, Montana St. 65
E. Washington 95, Walla Walla 44
Bozeman 84, Saint Mary's 62

62 Hawaii 89, Hawaii-Hilo 71
New Mexico St. 86, N. Colorado 65
Pepperdine 84, San Jose St. 44
Sacramento St. 74, Simpson (Cal.) 42

62 San Francisco 86, Florida A&M 41
San Francisco 86, Notre Dame de Namur 66
Seattle 88, Nebraska-Omaha 74
Utah St. 60, Santa Clara 54

62 Utah State 90, Carver 72
N. Michigan 71, Finlandia 45

NFL

Rookie RB Hill boosting Bengals

By JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jeremy Hill didn't expect to get much of a chance as a rookie because the Cincinnati Bengals had Giovani Bernard entrenched as the starter. With six games left, he's leading all NFL rookies in rushing.

The second-round pick ran for 152 yards during a 27-10 win at New Orleans on Sunday, his second big game in the last three. He also ran for 154 yards against Jacksonville on Nov. 2.

Hill leads all NFL rookies with 556 yards rushing and five touchdowns. He has two of the top 10 games overall in the NFL this season. He joined Paul Robinson as the only Bengals rookies with a pair of 150-yard games — Robinson did it in 1968, the franchise's inaugural season.

It's far more than he expected. "Being in the situation I'm in, not being the every-down guy, I really didn't think I would have a chance to get that," Hill said on Wednesday. "I've just been focused on doing what I can to help the team. I never really thought I'd be in the conversation for that type of stuff."

He is now. But the future is uncertain.

Bernard has missed the last three games with shoulder and hip injuries, giving Hill a chance to emerge. Hill has carried 63 times for 361 yards and two touchdowns in his absence, helping the Bengals (6-3-1) win two of the three games.

Bernard returned to practice on a limited basis Wednesday. It's unclear whether he'll be back for a game on Sunday at Houston (5-5).

"He had a tremendous practice today and we'll see where this thing goes because you never know what will happen tomorrow morning when you wake up," offensive coordinator Hue Jackson said after practice.

Jackson sidestepped a question about whether Bernard would be the starter again when he's healthy. He said Hill will continue with an increased role in the offense when Bernard returns.

"I think he deserves it," Jackson said.

The Bengals drafted Hill to give them a power back who can also catch passes. The offense has been wildly inconsistent — Cincinnati ranks 17th overall in the



ROGELIO SOLIS/AP

Bengals running back Jeremy Hill carries the ball as Saints inside linebacker David Hawthorne tries to bring him down on Sunday. Hill leads all rookies in the league with 556 yards rushing and five TDs.

league — but the running game has provided some of its best moments.

And Hill has provided its two biggest games.

"What I've been saying since day one is run the football," Hill said. "Everyone knows I can do that. It's just the other little things I've been trying to focus on and get better at — play fakes, helping

Andy (Dalton) in the play-action game, things of that nature."

Left tackle Andrew Whitworth hopes the Bengals keep stressing the run as they go through a tough closing stretch of their schedule — five of the last seven games on the road. In their most lopsided losses, the Bengals have given up a lot of yards rushing and gotten very few.

"When you're throwing the ball, you can't be as physical," Whitworth said. "It's a mentality of going into a game and saying, 'Hey, this is the first thing we're going to do.'"

"As a team, it seems the games that we go in [determined] to run the ball and stop the run we play better."

Brady likely to have increased role against Lions

By HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady didn't have to throw much or especially well for the New England Patriots to get their sixth straight win.

He figures to play a bigger role when they go for their seventh.

One week after they relied on the running game — 37 carries for 201 yards and four touchdowns by Jonas Gray — in a 42-20 win over Indianapolis, the Patriots face the NFL's top-ranked run defense on Sunday when they meet the Detroit Lions.

And Brady is determined to play better than he did in the first half against the Colts when he threw two interceptions with no touchdowns and completed just 10 of 19 passes for 84 yards.

"When you're there at halftime and I didn't play as well as I'm capable, then I've got to do a better job," Brady said Wednesday. "It always starts with me, and that's where my focus is. Hopefully, I put together four quarters of good stuff this weekend, not just two."

He rebounded in the second half, leading touchdown drives on the Patriots' first four possessions — two scoring passes and two short runs by Gray.

New England (8-2) ran more than it passed for just the third time this season — 45 running plays and 30 passes.

"Whether we're balanced or



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady expects to play a bigger part in guiding the Patriots offense on Sunday against the Lions, who have the NFL's top-ranked run defense.

not, we'll do whatever's going to get us a win," tight end Michael Hoomanawanui said.

With the Lions (7-3) allowing a league-low 68.8 yards rushing per game, the Patriots' best route to success should be through the air. That means their vastly improved offense line might not do as much of what it prefers, block

on running plays.

"It's just the mentality of linemen," left guard Dan Connolly said. "We like the physical nature of football and you get that more in the run game."

The Lions also have an outstanding pass defense, the fifth stingiest in the NFL, and have given up the fewest overall yards

'It always starts with me, and that's where my focus is.'

Tom Brady

New England Patriots quarterback

and points in the league.

"These guys do a great job on first down," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "They create more negative runs than any other team in the league. They get teams in a lot of second- and third-and-long situations. Those are usually not only very difficult, but that's also where they get some turnovers, too, strip-sacks and tipped balls and interceptions."

The Patriots, though, have been getting offensive contributions from more players as the wins have piled up.

Brady looked to Julian Edelman and Rob Gronkowski for most of his passes early in the season. Since then, Brandon LaFell and Tim Wright have been targeted more often, and Gronkowski's contribution has grown after a slow start coming off knee surgery.

"The more of those guys that can be involved, the better we're going to be as an offense," Brady said. "Who knows who it's going to be on a particular week? You really have to see how the game plays out, and if things are working like they were last weekend,

then you've got to stay with it."

On the first possession at Indianapolis, Gray ran four times for 30 yards and a touchdown. On the second, he ran just once for 20 yards before Brady threw an interception on the next play.

New England has routed the other three AFC division leaders, 43-17 over Cincinnati and 43-21 over Denver before the 22-point win over Indianapolis.

Next up is the co-leader of the NFC North.

"Last week doesn't mean anything, so I don't really care about that," Belichick said. "That has no impact on the game. What we have to do is figure out how to play against Detroit and it's hard. They're good at everything."

Defensively at least.

On offense, the Lions are 21st in yards gained and tied for 30th in rushing. Only six teams have fewer points.

But the way their defense has dominated, they don't have to score a lot.

"They've got a lot of guys up front that make big plays," Connolly said. "They're definitely disruptive."

NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Peaking early not a concern for Packers

Efficient offense is just building momentum

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is playing at a high level for the Green Bay Packers.

Jordy Nelson, Randall Cobb and Eddie Lacy are a triple-threat to score.

Coach Mike McCarthy's offense is on a roll. It's hard to get any better than out-scoring opponents 108-34 in the past two games.

But it's only mid-November. The playoffs — and the Packers aren't even assured yet of a postseason berth — are several weeks away.

A gloom-and-doom question looms among all the positive laurels on the sports-talk radio — Are the Packers peak-

ing early?

"I don't believe in peaking early. I don't even know what that means, to be honest with you," Rodgers said Wednesday. "We try to carry the feeling and the momentum from previous games, and learn from the mistakes we made, and we take it one game at a time."

Yet it's hard to dissect exactly what Green Bay has done wrong on offense, at least the past two weeks.

The Packers have jumped out to big leads on the Bears and Eagles, respectively, to turn the fourth quarters of each game into a glorified practice.

Such positive momentum builds confidence. McCarthy has said he does have to guard against overconfidence.

"The message of handling success is

something we've talked about since Day 1," McCarthy said Wednesday. "Today we just focused on ourselves and the Vikings and try not to pay a whole lot of attention to the nice things you're going to say about 'em.'"

Nelson and Cobb are one of the top receiving tandems in the league. But what has helped the Packers become even more potent is the emergence of Lacy out of the backfield as a pass-catching threat.

The 5-foot-11 running back, who won the Offensive Rookie of the Year award last season, is quite capably filling the role of the third option in the passing game



ROGELIO SOLIS/AP

Packers running back Eddie Lacy runs through Saints free safety Rafael Bush. Lacy has helped spark Green Bay's offense that leads the league points per game.

following the departure in the offseason of veteran receiver James Jones.

The Packers are also still searching for consistency at tight end following the departure of Jeremicah Finley, though the production at that position has picked up in recent weeks.

Lacy has 547 yards on 129 carries. He has 322 yards on 27 receptions — though 14 of those catches have come in the past three games. Lacy has turned a short pass into a long touchdown in each of the past two wins.

"When we get the ball out, whether it's a screen pass or dump-off pass and it's you and a corner, or you and a safety, you know I like those odds a lot better than running up the middle at linebackers," Lacy said. "But no matter how I get it, somebody's going to have to hit me."

McCarthy has said those screen plays have been available all season. Only Rod-

gers don't always have to go to that option if he sees Nelson breaking long down the sideline, or Cobb getting free over the middle.

"A-Rod is so smart. He sees a lot of things that I obviously don't know what he's looking at," Lacy said. "His mind is completely elsewhere, and he throws it somewhere else."

For as good as they have been of late, the Packers are still tied with Detroit atop the NFC North at 7-3. The Lions beat the Packers in Week 3, so the Week 17 matchup at Lambeau Field looms large as a game that could decide the division.

All of which makes Sunday's game at Minnesota just as important to Green Bay. Another loss in the division could make all the positive vibes in the locker room disappear.

No overconfidence or complacency evident here.

By the numbers

19

Number of TD catches for Packers WRs Jordy Nelson (10) and Randall Cobb (9).

14

Catches for RB Eddie Lacy in the past three games. He had 13 before that.

33

Points per game for the Packers, most in the NFL. They have topped 50 in the past two games.



AP photos

Packers receivers Jordy Nelson, top, and Randall Cobb below are one of the top receiving tandems in the NFL.

SOURCE: NFL.com

Briefly

NBA suspends Hornets' Taylor for 24 games in domestic violence case

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wanted to send a strong message on the league's lack of tolerance for domestic violence.

So he suspended Charlotte Hornets forward Jeffery Taylor for 24 games without pay after Taylor pleaded guilty last month to misdemeanor domestic violence assault and malicious destruction of hotel property.

"While the suspension is significantly longer than prior suspensions for incidents of domestic violence by NBA players, it is appropriate in light of Mr. Taylor's conduct, the need to deter similar conduct going forward, and the evolving social consensus — with which we fully concur — that professional sports leagues like the

NBA must respond to such incidents in a more rigorous way," Silver said in a statement on Wednesday.

Taylor will get credit for the 11 games he has missed, and will sit out an additional 13, which is slightly more than one-fourth of the league's 82-game schedule.

The suspension means Taylor will lose nearly \$200,000 of his \$915,000 salary this season.

It's unclear if Taylor plans to appeal. Attempts to reach the NBA Players Association on Wednesday night were unsuccessful.

Taylor, 25, is in his third NBA season. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation. As part of his probation, he must complete 26 weeks in a domestic violence intervention program.

The Hornets released a statement before

their game Wednesday night against Indiana, saying: "The NBA has informed us of its decision to suspend Jeffery Taylor. We understand and support the NBA's position in this matter."

RB Blount rejoins Patriots

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots have re-signed running back LeGarrette Blount two days after he was released by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Blount spent last season with the Patriots before signing a two-year contract with the Steelers. Pittsburgh cut him on Tuesday.

McIlroy returns, leads in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Top-ranked Rory McIlroy returned from a six-week absence to shoot a 6-under 66 for a

share of the lead on the first day of the season-ending DP World Tour Championship on Thursday.

McIlroy birdied four of his opening five holes and then two of the last four to join Irishman Shane Lowry at the top of the leaderboard.

Weber State put on probation

The NCAA has imposed sanctions on Weber State after it found that a math instructor had improperly helped Wildcats football players with their course work, quizzes and tests.

The NCAA put Weber State on probation for three years, reduced scholarships for the football program and imposed at least \$5,000 in fines for violating ethical conduct rules.

SPORTS

**Always crummy**76ers lurching toward worst start in NBA history | **Page 28**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hole truth

Badgers' burly O-line paving Gordon's path to Heisman contention

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis.

Instead of relaxing in a hot tub a couple days after setting a rushing record, Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon was doing another round of interviews.

Getting out of the routine was understandable after a 408-yard day on the ground against Nebraska vaulted Gordon near the top of the Heisman Trophy race.

But Gordon knows he could be feeling a lot worse this week. The offensive line for the 14th-ranked Badgers has been up opening lots of room lately for the star running back.

"They've been playing (well) and they never get the attention, everyone knows that — that's on this level, the next level," Gordon said. "The offensive linemen never get the attention they're supposed to get."

That's saying a lot, even at Wisconsin (8-2, 5-1 Big Ten), which has as much

of a history producing road-paving offensive linemen as it does record-setting running backs. A tough road game Saturday at Iowa is the next stop on Gordon's Heisman campaign.

For as wide as the holes might be at the line of scrimmage, it's hard to overlook what Gordon has done once he's gotten into the open field.

Standing 6-foot-1 and a sturdy 213 pounds, Gordon is virtually unstoppable when he's matched up one-on-one on a defender. Check the highlight reel from last week's game against Nebraska.

Gordon set a major college standard for most yards rushing in a game. And he didn't even play in the fourth quarter.

"Well, it feels good, but we're not going to sit there and pound our chest about it. We're not going to say, 'That was us,'" right tackle Rob Havenstein said. "If you watch the film and see what Melvin does, all we do when we do our job correctly ... we'll get him 7 yards."

SEE HOLE ON PAGE 26

Behind another trademark bruising Wisconsin offensive line, Badgers running back Melvin Gordon has vaulted to near the top of the Heisman Trophy race.

MARK HOFFMAN
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/TNS

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